



Say No to Abuse and Violence

I am concerned that the current program is too narrow in its focus.

The definition of family and domestic violence contains six forms of abuse and violence:

- From a male towards his female partner
- From females to males in intimate relationships
- Between same-sex couples
- Between siblings
- From adolescent children to parents
- From family carers to a frail aged relative or a relative with a disability.

The guidelines for this plan only address abuse and violence from a male towards his female partner.

Even a plan that is limited to intimate partner abuse would address the first three forms of family and domestic violence.

Males tend to use physical violence, whereas females tend to use emotional and psychological abuse.

Currently there are no support services for men who are the victims of abuse and violence and no intervention programs for women who are using abuse and violence.

There is also the issue of considering family and domestic violence as being part of the broader problem of the widespread abuse and violence in our community.

The ABS Personal Safety Survey (2005) found that a large number of men (10.8%) were the victims of violence in the past 12 months, which is almost double that of women (5.8%).

Elder abuse is a serious problem that is only beginning to be addressed.

Bullying amongst children is another important area to be addressed in a broad approach to eliminating abuse and violence.

Road rage is a more recent manifestation of the widespread nature of the problem.

All forms of abuse and violence have a devastating impact on the victim.

There should be a broadly based campaign:
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I have attached a paper *Intimate partner violence theoretical considerations: Moving towards a contextual framework* by Bell and Naugle, Clinical Psychological Review (2008) which provides a model that is worth considering in developing both a limited program of addressing violence against women as well as the broader approach that I am suggesting.

Background information on MAN

The Men's Advisory Network (MAN) is the peak body for service providers, organisations and individuals concerned with men's health, wellbeing and other issues affecting men and boys in Western Australia. MAN was established in 1997 and incorporated in 2000. It receives financial support from the WA Department of Health.

The primary role that MAN plays is resourcing the sector through supporting service providers, organisations and professionals from various disciplines, who work with men and boys. In addition, MAN provides information to individuals about appropriate services and professionals, plus provides general community education and raises awareness of the issues affecting men and boys. Further information is available on the website: www.man.org.au

Gary Bryant
Executive Officer
Men's Advisory Network
Claisebrook Lotteries House
33 Moore Street
East Perth WA 6004
Phone/Fax: (08) 9218 8044
Mobile: 0414 950 902
Email: admin@man.org.au
Website: www.man.org.au