



TOWARDS GENDER EQUITY 2030

A vision for all people in Maribyrnong to flourish and live free from violence and discrimination and have equal status, rights, opportunities, representation and respect, regardless of their gender.



Maribyrnong
CITY COUNCIL



We acknowledge the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation. We acknowledge the people of the Kulin nation as traditional custodians of the lands on which Maribyrnong City Council is located and where we conduct our business. We are committed to honouring Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their contribution to society.

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Introduction

In 2015, the Royal Commission into Family Violence concluded that ‘Family violence is a gendered crime’ and that ending violence against women requires addressing gender inequality in all its forms – in the workplace, school yards, on television screens and on sporting fields.¹

Despite the recent investment and commitments at all levels of government, family violence, violence against women and gender inequality continue to cause substantial harm in our community. In Australia at least one woman a week is killed by a partner or former partner and intimate partner violence contributes to more death, disability and illness in women aged 15 to 44 than any other preventable risk factor.²

At its core, family violence is rooted in the inequalities between women and men. An environment based on inequality fosters discriminatory attitudes and behaviours that condone violence and allow it to occur. For this reason, addressing gender inequality and discrimination is at the heart of preventing family violence, and other forms of violence against women such as non-intimate partner sexual assault³.

Gender inequality is also a pervasive and persistent problem in our community. Women currently earn 14.6 per cent less than men⁴, are more likely to work part-time and in insecure employment, they do three times the amount of unpaid caring and domestic work and are significantly more likely to be single parents. A result of this inequality is that women retire with half the superannuation and savings when compared with men; they have greater economic insecurity, are more likely to live in poverty⁵ and be homeless, and have poor health outcomes.

Conversely, pursuing gender equality benefits everyone. Gender equality does not just reduce family violence and violence against women; it challenges the stereotypes and presumptions that constrict us and helps put us all on a platform to succeed in our own ways – women and men. It has also been clearly demonstrated that gender equality has significant health, social and economic benefits.⁶

As defined in Victoria’s Gender Equality Plan⁷, gender equality is “the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women, men, trans and gender diverse people. Equality does not mean that women, men, trans and gender diverse people

will become the same but that their rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on their gender.” Similarly gender equity “entails the provision of fairness and justice in the distribution of benefits and responsibilities on the basis of gender. The concept recognises that people may have different needs and power related to their gender and that these differences should be identified and addressed in a manner that rectifies gender related imbalances”. Gender equity is the process to achieve the outcome of gender equality.

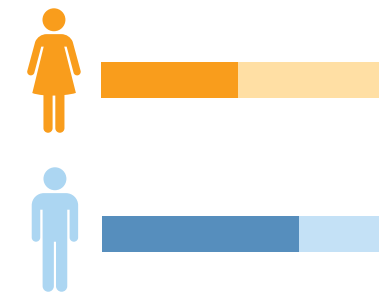
Changes in structures, attitudes and behaviours require significant investment and won’t happen overnight. Local government works across a number of settings, including early years, youth and family services, education, sports, health, arts and culture and workplaces, and is well placed to build knowledge and raise awareness of individuals, communities and organisations. We are also responsible for planning and shaping the built environment, which has a profound effect on the community’s access to resources, services and infrastructure. Well-resourced environments contribute to a more equal society and assist in the prevention of violence against women and children.⁸

This Gender Equity Strategy 2030 (the Strategy) sets our long-term commitment and guides investment and action to achieve gender equality, prevent family violence and respond to the needs of victims of family violence in Maribyrnong. It includes an ambitious set of evidence-based objectives and strategies to achieve our vision: *where all people in Maribyrnong flourish and live free from violence and discrimination and have equal status, rights, opportunities, representation and respect, regardless of their gender.*

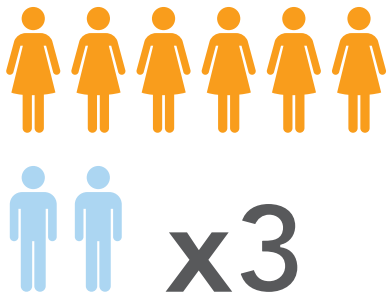
The Strategy aligns with the recent changes in the national, state, regional and local policy environment. It is long term; to align with *Preventing Violence Together 2030: Western Region Strategy to Prevent Violence Against Women*. The Strategy will be accompanied by a detailed 2-year action plan that will outline how together we can create a more equal Maribyrnong, where family violence and violence against women are a thing of the past.



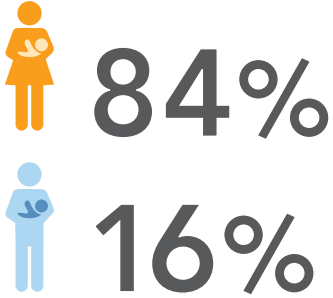
Gender inequality in Maribyrnong



HALF OF WOMEN WORK FULL TIME COMPARED TO 2/3 MEN



WOMEN DO THREE TIMES THE AMOUNT OF UNPAID WORK THAN MEN



WOMEN MAKE UP 84% OF LONE PARENTS COMPARED TO 16% WHO ARE MEN

Violence against women



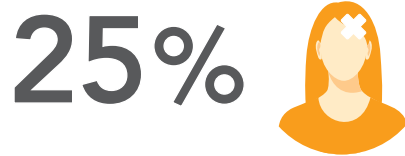
IN AUSTRALIA: AT LEAST ONE WOMAN A WEEK IS KILLED BY A PARTNER OR FORMER PARTNER



1 IN 5 AUSTRALIAN WOMEN HAS EXPERIENCED SEXUAL VIOLENCE



1 IN 3 AUSTRALIAN WOMEN HAS EXPERIENCED PHYSICAL VIOLENCE



OF AUSTRALIAN WOMEN HAVE EXPERIENCED PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE BY AN INTIMATE PARTNER



MARIBYRNONG WOMEN REPORTED FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS TO POLICE IN 2017



OF WOMEN WHO EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE FROM A CURRENT PARTNER HAD NEVER CONTACTED THE POLICE.

Vision

All people in Maribyrnong flourish and live free from violence and discrimination and have equal status, rights, opportunities, representation and respect, regardless of their gender.

Our Strategy at a glance

Our role:	Objectives:
Service provision and community strengthening	<div>1. Strengthen our response to family violence and violence against women.</div> <div>2. Work alongside the community to prevent violence and normalise gender equality in public and private life.</div>
Local leadership	<div>3. Increase women’s independence and role in decision making.</div>
Policy and planning	<div>4. Ensure that the development of policy, programs and services considers the specific impacts of gender inequity on health, wellbeing and safety.</div>
Developing facilities and creating safe public environments	<div>5. Increase the number of safe and gender-equitable facilities and public environments.</div>
Employer and procurer	<div>6. Take steps to be a more safe and gender-equitable organisation.</div>



Principles

This Strategy is guided by the following principles:

- 1 Human Rights**
Family violence and violence against women are a human rights violation. Council supports the right of all individuals to live free from violence and discrimination regardless of their sex, gender identity, sexuality, ethnicity, age, ability or religion.
- 2 Prevention**
Family violence and violence against women are not inevitable, they are preventable. We recognise that prevention is everyone's business and responsibility and commit to undertake action that is systemic and enduring to prevent violence against women and children from occurring.
- 3 Community**
Council recognises that everybody has a role in promoting gender equity and preventing violence against women. We value the collective experience and knowledge of the community and will work together to harness strength, potential, and resources to reduce violence against women and children and create a gender-equitable Maribyrnong.
- 4 Intersectionality**
Gender inequality and violence do not impact all people in the same way. For many, the impact of gender inequality is intensified by the way that gendered barriers interact with other forms of structural disadvantage and systems of oppression such as colonialism, classism, racism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia and ageism. We value the lived experiences of all women and we will work to strengthen our capacity to better understand and address the impacts of intersecting and interlinking forms of discrimination and oppression.
- 5 Life stages**
Women and children experience gender inequality and violence differently throughout the stages of their lives. Council will take into account the impact that different stages of life has on women and girls' financial security, and health and wellbeing when planning policy and programs, and ensure that their voices are valued and heard.
- 6 Evidence and innovation**
We are committed to evidence-informed practice, which is guided by research and theory, and effective monitoring and evaluation. We also recognise that innovation in the promotion of gender equity and prevention of violence against women should be pursued. We will facilitate creativity and welcome tests, pilots and experiments.
- 7 Collaboration**
To prevent violence against women and children we must work together in partnership with the community that we serve and carry out collaborative and participatory processes to support the sharing of knowledge, skills, resources and influence. We will work collaboratively with community members, groups and organisations to ensure women are at the forefront of primary prevention action.

Context

Maribyrnong City Council has a long history of undertaking innovative and sector-leading work in the promotion of gender equity and prevention of violence against women.

As the level of government closest to the community, Victorian Councils have a mandate to create healthy, safe and inclusive communities. As a result of the Victorian Government Royal Commission into Family Violence (RCFV) in 2015, Councils are now required to have an increased focus on family violence prevention and response at a local level through development of municipal public health and wellbeing plans. In particular, Councils must *report on the measures they propose to take to reduce family violence and respond to the needs of victims.*⁹

Our community

The City of Maribyrnong is undergoing significant change. Population growth, redevelopment, gentrification, and a transitioning economy is leading to an influx of new residents and businesses. Maribyrnong’s cultural diversity is evident with 40 per cent of residents born overseas and many new arrivals, asylum seekers, and people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders¹⁰. Our city has a relatively young population with many infants and young adults. The population is forecast to grow to approximately 156,000 by 2041.

Gentrification and population growth continue to change the city’s demographics through age, cultural background and wealth. Levels of income, education, employment have risen over the last decade. High population growth provides great opportunities for retail, services, land use and economy on a larger scale and quality. Conversely, it also provides great challenges in identifying service need and adjusting provision to meet demand whilst managing congestion, urban growth, liveability and promoting health equity.

Violence and gender inequality in our community

Our local data is compelling. In Maribyrnong, 611 women reported family violence incidents to police in 2017, which equates to about 12 reports every week and approximately 1.6 reports every day.¹¹ We also know that police referrals only account for approximately 25 per cent of all referrals to family violence services.¹² So whilst compelling, our current data does not fully capture the scale of the issue in our municipality.

In addition, gender inequality persists in our community; women currently earn 14.6 per cent less than men¹³ and retire with half the superannuation and savings. As a consequence, women face greater risk of economic insecurity in retirement, are more likely to live in poverty¹⁴ and are at greater risk of homelessness than men.¹⁵

Furthermore, women in Maribyrnong make up 84 per cent of lone parents (compared to 16 per cent who were men), they do three times the amount of unpaid work¹⁶ and only half of women work full time compared to two-thirds of men.¹⁷

Women also have differing health and wellbeing needs to men. Only a third of women in Maribyrnong get enough exercise, a quarter have experienced depression or anxiety (compared to one in five for men), and women were also less likely to report feeling safe walking at night when compared to men.¹⁸

We also know that violence is experienced differently by different women and groups and we acknowledge the importance of addressing the impacts of racism and other forms of discrimination in the development of strategies to address the drivers for violence against women;

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experience higher rates and more severe forms of violence than non-indigenous women.¹⁹
- Women with disabilities experience violence at significantly higher rates, more frequently, for longer, in more ways and by more perpetrators compared to women and girls without a disability.²⁰

- 18-24 year old women experience higher rates of physical and sexual violence than older women.²¹
- Women are at an increased risk of experiencing violence from an intimate partner violence during pregnancy and post-partum.²²
- Women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds are made vulnerable by structural disadvantage, such as the dominance of English language services, complex service systems, strict immigration policies, racism, and visa limitations, which can accentuate their experiences of family violence.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and women from CALD backgrounds may also be affected by other forms of violence, in particular racially-motivated violence²³.
- People who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex, queer and asexual (LGBTIQA+) experience intimate partner violence at similar rates as those who identify as heterosexual²⁴ and experience high rates of discrimination and inequality in daily life. However, violence in the LGBTIQA+ community is not well understood and is often ignored.

In addition, these groups face barriers in accessing support services that are inclusive and responsive to their needs.

Council’s role

Local government can make a difference because its reach across the community where people live, work, learn and play, from birth to old age, is unrivalled. As a large employer, advocate, service provider and leader, local government has the capacity to influence many of the determinants of health and wellbeing, including gender.

Council can work to prevent violence against women in practical ways through our role in:

- Local leadership
- Planning
- Developing facilities and creating safe public environments
- Service provision; and
- As an employer and procurer.

Local Government community services such as maternal and child health, early childhood services, youth services and positive aging, also work directly with individuals at risk or experiencing violence, and are an essential part of the family violence response system.

Our framework and approach

This Strategy takes a primary prevention approach drawn from public health and health promotion theory and practice. Distinct from response or early intervention actions, primary prevention takes action before violence occurs.²⁵ The RCFV now requires councils to report on the measures they propose to take to both reduce family violence and respond to the needs of victims, therefore alongside primary prevention actions, the Strategy will include proposed measures to strengthen our response to violence against women and family violence.

Our framework (Table 2. overleaf), adapted from the *Change the Story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia* (Our Watch et al. 2015) presents an evidence-based approach to guide our work and redress the key gendered drivers of violence against women. It identifies four drivers of violence against women that are associated with five essential actions that work to prevent violence.

Gendered drivers of violence against women	Essential actions that will prevent violence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> condoning violence against women men's control of decision making and limits to women's independence stereotyped constructions of masculinity and femininity; and disrespect towards women and male peer relations that emphasise aggression. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> challenge condoning of violence against women promote women's independence and decision-making challenge gender stereotypes and roles strengthen positive, equal and respectful relationships; and promote and normalise gender equality in public and private life.

Table 2: Strategy framework; adapted from the Change the Story (OurWatch, 2015)

The socio-ecological model (Figure 1) presents a useful way to understand how violence against women occurs. The model illustrates the dynamic interrelations between individual, organisational, community, systemic and social factors, recognising that a person’s behaviour does not occur in a vacuum.

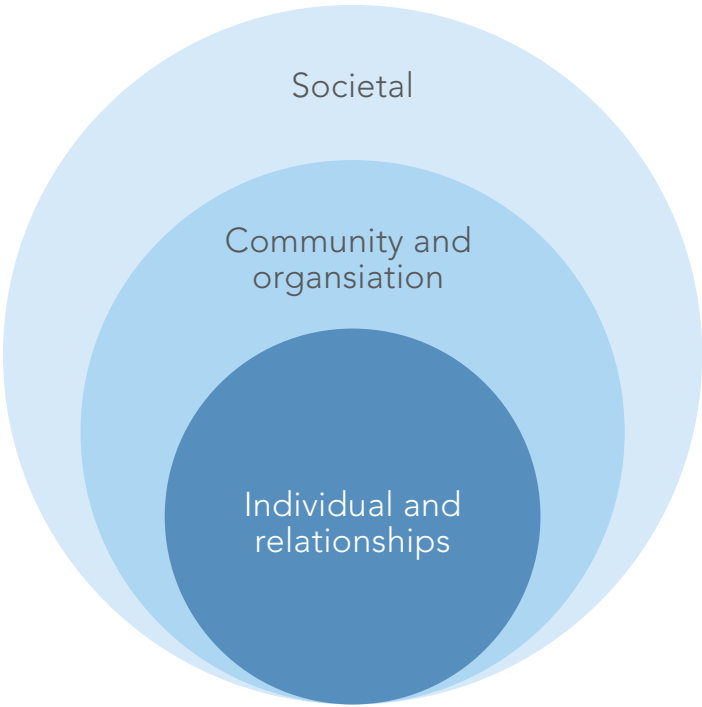


Figure 1: Socio-ecological model (adapted from VicHealth 2007 and Women's Health West 2017)

The socio-ecological model illustrates that local government actions can be focused at all levels, for example:

- the individual level relates to Council services that have direct contact with residents such as maternal and child health services and local laws teams;
- the relationship level relates to those settings and programs that seek to promote healthy relationships and gender equity, such as programs implemented by children's, youth and family services;
- the community level relates to the settings such as schools, sporting venues, arts and culture, workplaces and neighbourhoods in which social relationships occur;
- the organisation level relates to our role as a large local employer and leader that can role model gender equity and the prevention of violence; and
- the societal level relates to our role as decision makers and advocates for health, economic and social policies and our approach to communications, which drives community attitudes and stereotyped constructions of masculinity and femininity.

In addition, we recognise that there are a number of reinforcing factors that do not cause, but can contribute to, or exacerbate, violence. These include financial pressures, alcohol and other drug abuse, risky or problem gambling, mental illness, social and economic exclusion, and previous exposure to violence.²⁶ It is important that our approach takes these factors into account and aligns with Council’s existing work and health policies relating to alcohol and other drugs, gambling, social inclusion, economic development and early years and youth services.

Partnerships and collaboration

The Strategy acknowledges that Council cannot achieve our vision on our own; gender inequality, family violence and violence against women are complex social problems that do not have an easy fix. To be successful in overcoming inequality and violence, we need to work collaboratively across the organisation and in partnership with other local stakeholders to make the most of partners’ knowledge, skills, expertise and resources and to achieve the best outcomes for the community.

We are committed to *Preventing Violence Together 2030: Western Region Strategy to Prevent Violence Against Women*, which is led by Women's Health West. *Preventing Violence Together 2030* partner organisations from across the region have committed to work together to preventing violence against women, using a collective impact approach.

In addition, we are committed to the *Western Integrated Family Violence Committee (WIFVC)* a whole-of-sector reference group of stakeholders involved in the family violence service system reform process in Melbourne’s West and *Action for Equity: A sexual and reproductive health strategy for Melbourne’s west 2018-2022*, also led by Women's Health West.



Objectives and strategies

The following evidence-based objectives and strategies outline how we plan to meet the requirements for local government that have come from the 2015 Royal Commission into Family Violence. They also outline how we will achieve our vision: *where all people in Maribyrnong flourish and live free from violence and discrimination and have equal status, rights, opportunities, representation and respect, regardless of their gender.*

The Strategy will be accompanied by detailed 2-year action plans. Council will make amendments to the Strategies and Actions as novel State legislation becomes enacted (such as the Victorian Government Gender Equality Bill, currently in draft).

Objective 1: Strengthen our response to violence against women and family violence.

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| Strategy 1.1: | Ensure that our services are equipped to respond effectively to violence against women and family violence |
| Strategy 1.2: | Encourage help seeking and provide accessible information about family violence services across Council service touch points |

Objective 2: Work alongside the community to prevent gender-based violence and normalise gender equality in public and private life.

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|----------------------|--|
| Strategy 2.1: | Increase the community’s awareness and understanding of gender inequality, family violence and violence against women, and their role in primary prevention |
| Strategy 2.2: | Decrease attitudes and behaviours within the community that condone violence against women and perpetuate gender inequality |
| Strategy 2.3: | Strengthen the commitment and capacity of the community to promote transformative notions of masculinity and femininity that support equality between women and men in the community |
| Strategy 2.4: | Strengthen positive, equal and respectful relationships through Council educations programs, services and resources |

Objective 3: Increase women’s independence and role in decision making.

Strategy 3.1:	Support and encourage local women from diverse backgrounds to become Councillors and take on other leadership roles in the community
Strategy 3.2:	Celebrate the contribution, achievements and leadership of women within the community and organisation
Strategy 3.3:	Redress structural and societal barriers to women’s independence and full economic, social and civic participation

Objective 4: Ensure that the development of policy, programs and services considers the specific impacts of gender inequity on health, wellbeing and safety.

Strategy 4.1:	Strengthen our capacity to apply an intersectional gender lens to inform Council policies, plans and, programs and engagement
Strategy 4.2:	Build and strengthen partnerships and collaborative action for the prevention of violence against women and promotion of gender equity
Strategy 4.3:	Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework with clear evaluation points for the life of the Strategy



Objective 5: Increase the number of safe and gender-equitable facilities and public environments to facilitate equal participation in community and civic life.

Strategy 5.1:	Increase use of intersectional gender analysis and sex disaggregated data in planning and advising on the public realm, land use, facilities planning and parks and open space
Strategy 5.2:	Apply universal design ²⁷ and crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) ²⁸ principles when planning and upgrading community facilities, infrastructure and public environments
Strategy 5.3:	Take steps to increase the number of women and children using active transport (walking, cycling, and public transport)

Objective 6: Take steps to be a safer and more gender equitable organisation.

Strategy 6.1:	Demonstrate ongoing commitment to preventing violence against women and children and have structures, strategies and policies that explicitly promote gender equality
Strategy 6.2:	Embed gender equality in our recruitment, remuneration and promotion processes, and support women and men to utilise flexible work options without penalty
Strategy 6.3:	Take steps to make sure that all staff feel safe and confident in the workplace. Actively challenge gender stereotypes, roles and norms
Strategy 6.4:	Increase the gender balance in leadership positions across all directorates of Council
Strategy 6.5:	Ensure that we have the structures, practices and culture to respond appropriately to staff and stakeholders affected by violence, discrimination, bullying and sexual harassment
Strategy 6.6:	Utilise media and communication opportunities to promote non-stereotypical gender roles and raise awareness of gender equity and violence against women

How the Strategy was developed

In early 2018, a reference group of internal stakeholders was recruited from across Council to inform the development of the Strategy, test the proposed consultation approach and act as internal peer reviewers.

A consultant was recruited to prepare a background report, facilitate stakeholder engagement and to report on the consultation outcomes. The background report explored and made recommendations relating to Council’s previous work, promising practice within the Local Government sector, and statistics and evidence that apply to our municipality.

To capture the perspectives of internal stakeholders, we ran in-depth consultation with staff from across the organisation via a series of four workshops. The workshops explored four themes: early intervention and our current response to violence;

prevention; council’s role in building safe and gender-equitable places and spaces; and the workplace. Staff that were unable to attend the workshops were invited to complete an online survey that aligned with the face-to-face consultation workshops.

The draft Strategy was presented to our regional partners, key stakeholders and community for comment before the document was finalised. We are grateful for the valuable feedback we received from the community, Women’s Health and, Community Health organisations, Primary Care Partnerships, Local and State Government, Arts and Multicultural organisation representatives as this has helped to shape the Strategy.



Implementation and evaluation



By tracking progress and reporting on the impact and outcomes of the Strategy, we will be able to strengthen our evidence base and encourage a culture of learning and improvement.

The Strategy will be accompanied by bi-annual action plans. In line with Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) reporting requirements, an annual progress report will be submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services and made publically available.

A detailed Evaluation Plan will be developed to accompany the Strategy in early 2019. We will monitor trends in population level outcomes over the life of the plan and review and amend our actions accordingly. Figure 2. lists some key evaluation milestones that will occur across the life of the Strategy. We will apply the following three levels of evaluation at defined intervals:

- Progress – Have we done what we said we would do?
- Impact – Are we having the influence we expected?
- Outcome – Have we achieved the change we sought?

In addition, the evaluation of the Strategy will align with the *Preventing Violence Together 2030 Shared Measurement and Evaluation Framework: Implementation Plan (2018)* and associated projects, as well as the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework (2016)²⁹ and other relevant Victorian Legislation (such as the Gender Equality Bill, currently in draft).

The implementation and evaluation of the Strategy will be overseen by Council’s Health and Wellbeing Development team and supported by the Gender Equity Ambassador, a role appointed to a Maribyrnong Councillor at the beginning of each four-year Council term.

Gender Equity Strategy evaluation timeline



Figure 2: Gender Equity Strategy evaluation timeline

Glossary

Family violence

The Victorian *Family Violence Protection Act 2008* defines family violence as:

‘(a) behaviour that is physically, sexually, emotionally, psychologically or economically abusive; threatening or coercive; or in any other way controls or dominates the family member and causes them to feel fear for the safety or wellbeing of that family member or another person; or (b) behaviour by a person that causes a child to hear or witness, or otherwise be exposed to the effects of, behaviour referred to in paragraph (a)’.

Family

Our use of the term ‘family’ or ‘families’ is all encompassing. It acknowledges the variety of relationships and structures that can make up family units and kinship networks, and the range of ways family violence can be experienced, including through family-like or carer relationships and other interpersonal relationships, and across all genders and sexualities.

Violence against women

Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual and psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. It can also include financial abuse, the use of intimidation, threats and isolation.³⁰

Sex

Sex refers to a person's biological characteristics. A person's sex is usually described as being male or female. Some people may not be exclusively male or female, or may not identify with either category.

Gender

Refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours and attributes that society considers appropriate for women and men. Unlike the biological characteristics and differences between women and men known as sex, gender roles are socially learnt, differ among cultures, and change over time.

Gender identity

Refers to how people feel about themselves in relation to their biological sex and society's expectations of our behaviours and roles as a male or female.³¹

Gender expression

Refers to how people present themselves to the world and how they express their masculine and feminine qualities to communicate their gender outwardly.

Gender equality

As defined in Victoria's Gender Equality Plan³², gender equality is “the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women, men, trans and gender diverse people. Equality does not mean that women, men, trans and gender diverse people will become the same, but that their rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on their gender.”

Gender equity

The process of delivering on fairness to women and men. The concept recognises that within all communities, women and men have different benefits, access to power, resources and responsibilities. It takes into consideration the differences in women's and men's lives and recognises that different approaches to achieving gender equity may be needed to produce outcomes that are fair. In other words, strategies and measures must be available to compensate for women's historical and social disadvantages and ensure that women are living and participating on an equal basis. Gender equity leads to gender equality.

Primary prevention

A primary prevention approach is a long-term agenda that aims to prevent violence from ever happening in the first place. Primary prevention works by identifying the deep underlying causes of violence – the social norms, structures and practices that influence individual attitudes and behaviours – and acting across the whole population to change these, not just the behaviour of perpetrators. Primary prevention is distinct from early intervention and crisis response activities (also known as secondary and tertiary response) that aim to stop violence from escalating or recurring. An effective primary prevention approach will support and complement early intervention and crisis response efforts and activities by reducing pressure on these other parts of the system.

Gendered drivers

The specific elements or expressions of gender inequality that are most strongly linked to violence against women. They relate to the particular structures, norms and practices arising from gender inequality in public and private life. The gendered drivers are the underlying causes required to create the necessary conditions in which violence against women occurs. They must always be considered in the context of other forms of social discrimination and disadvantage.

Structural discrimination and disadvantage

The norms, policies and systems present in politics, the legal system, education, workplaces and health care that are intended to be neutral, but in effect present obstacles to groups or individuals in achieving the same rights and opportunities available to the majority of the population.

Sex disaggregated data

Data that is collected and presented separately for men, women and gender diverse.

Intersectionality

Gender, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion or age, can interact on multiple levels to create overlapping forms of discrimination and power imbalances which compounds the risk of experiencing family violence. This often results in simultaneous and compounding experiences of discrimination and disadvantage for particular groups and communities, including women.

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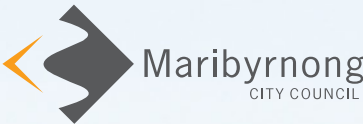
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Maribyrnong City Council offices
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