



ANROWS Research Priorities (2017 grants)

Summary May 2018

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AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL RESEARCH
ORGANISATION FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY
to Reduce Violence against Women & their Children

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Introduction

On 15 January 2017, Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) confirmed 13 successful projects from our 2017 ANROWS Research Priorities grants round to produce research under the National Research Agenda to support the [*National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022*](#).

This first set of ANROWS's Research Priorities projects from the 2017 grants round comprises 13 projects with a total value of approximately \$2.2 million. This program of research will support the implementation of the National Plan and reflects the priorities of the Third Action Plan of the National Plan. These 13 new projects join the 22 projects funded under ANROWS's 2014 Research Priorities, most of which are now complete, and the 12 projects funded under our 2017 Perpetrator Interventions Research Stream grants round. ANROWS also expects to be announcing a small number of additional research projects funded under the 2017 Research Priorities shortly.

The complete 2017 Research Priorities will comprise projects within the four Strategic Research Themes (SRT) from the [*National Research Agenda to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children*](#):

1. Experience and impacts.
2. Gender inequality and primary prevention.
3. Service responses and interventions.
4. Systems.

Projects address key gaps in current evidence on the prevention and response to violence against women and, combined, provide an ambitious and far-reaching program of research across a range of practice contexts, topics and jurisdictions as well as involving a diverse group of researchers and research partnerships.

ANROWS's commitment to engaging with priority populations means that all funded projects must include consideration of at least one priority population and address issues of intersectionality in their methodology. Priority populations addressed in the 2017 Research Priorities projects include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse women, older women, women with disability, women who are, or have been, incarcerated, lesbian, gay, bisexual trans* and intersex women and women who live in rural and remote areas. The funded projects also demonstrate ANROWS's leadership and capacity building functions with four projects being led by early career researchers and one being led by a service provider.

The research topics on which the projects are based were developed by ANROWS through a review of recent additions to the academic and grey literature and identification of key emerging research needs. A competitive grants process was used to assess 97 applications from researchers across Australia and determine which projects would most effectively address the identified research gaps.

More information on projects funded under the ANROWS Research Priorities is available on our [Research Priorities](#) web pages.

Acknowledgement

Grant funds available for this research stream were made available to ANROWS by the Australian Government (Department of Social Services) and all Australian state and territory governments.

ANROWS Research Priorities (2017 grants)

Strategic Research Theme 1: Experiences and impacts

Research priority	Project title	Summary	Length and budget	Jurisdiction	Research Team
<p>The nature of the relationship between gambling and domestic violence, including the role of gambling in economic abuse and the use of gambling venues as “safe spaces” for women experiencing violence.</p> <p>The prevalence and characteristics of violence against older women.</p>	<p>The relationship between gambling and domestic violence against women</p>	<p>Summary: This national project is a partnership between CQUniversity, Australian Institute of Family Studies, Relationships Australia (Qld, NSW, SA), Financial Counselling Australia, WHIN, Crossroads and Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service, which will build capacity, strengthen inter-sector links, and widely translate new knowledge to inform policy, programs and practice. It aims to investigate the nature of the relationship between gambling and domestic violence (DV), including the role of gambling in economic abuse and the use of gambling venues as “safe spaces” for women experiencing violence. The key research questions are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How might problem gambling contribute to DV towards women when 1) the DV is linked to the perpetrator’s (man’s) gambling or 2) linked to the victim’s (woman’s) gambling? 2. How might DV contribute to gambling problems when women DV victims use gambling as a coping mechanism and/or venues as “safe spaces”? 3. How might problem gambling contribute to the economic abuse of women to sustain the perpetrator’s gambling, and pose risks to women when acting to protect family finances? 4. What are the distinctive experiences of gambling-related DV and DV-related gambling for older women? <p>Method:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Literature review. 2. Interviews and focus groups with key informants, people with lived experience and with financial counselling clients (n=140 interviews). 3. Case study of older women with a focus on specific issues of intersectionality. <p>We will use both narrative enquiry and situational analysis to understand the experiences of gambling and domestic violence. We will situate the findings within the social context of gender inequality within which violence against women occurs and the gendered drivers of violence against women. In alignment with the Change the Story Framework (OurWatch, ANROWS & VicHealth, 2015), we will analyse the role of gambling as a reinforcing factor potentially interacting with gendered drivers to increase violence against women.</p> <p>Priority populations: Older women (as a focus)</p>	<p>Project length 2+ years</p> <p>Budget \$230,848</p>	<p>Research sites National</p> <p>Lead QLD</p> <p>Partners 1. QLD (6) 2. VIC (5) 3. SA (2)</p>	<p>Lead: Prof Nerilee Hing, Central Queensland University</p> <p>Research expertise</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Erika Langham, Central Queensland University 2. Prof Annabel Taylor, Central Queensland University 3. Dr Catherine O’Mullan, Central Queensland University 4. Lydia Mainey, Central Queensland University 5. Nancy Greer, Central Queensland University 6. Dr Andrew Frost, Central Queensland University 7. Dr Elaine Nuske, Australian Catholic University 8. Prof Alun Jackson, Jackson Consulting; University of Melbourne 9. Dr Rebecca Jenkinson, Australian Institute of Family Studies 10. Dr Angela Rintoul, Australian Institute of Family Studies 11. Julie Deblaquiere, Australian Institute of Family Studies 12. Dr Anna Thomas, RMIT University <p>Practice expertise</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Jemima Petch, Relationships Australia, QLD 2. Aditi Lohan, Relationships Australia, QLD 3. Dr Jamie Lee, Relationships Australia, SA 4. Alisha Heidenreich, Relationships Australia, SA 5. Dr Jen Hamer, Relationships Australia, NSW 6. Fiona Loaney, Relationships Australia, ACT 7. Felicity Hamilton, Relationships Australia, ACT 8. Sandra Morris, Women’s Health in The North Inc. VIC 9. Blanca Ramos, The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory Social Work, VIC 10. Amanda Lee-Ross, Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service, QLD 11. Ms Lauren Levin, Financial Counselling Australia, QLD

Research priority	Project title	Summary	Length and budget	Jurisdiction	Research Team
<p>The impact of women's reduced material resources (including both housing and economic insecurity) on women's vulnerability to, and experiences of, violence.</p> <p>The nature, and distinct characteristics of, violence against women in diverse and/or disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>The prevalence and nature of violence experienced by children and adolescents; with a particular focus on female teenagers, very young children and/or post-separation violence including violence that occurs in the context of child contact.</p>	<p>Domestic violence, social security law and the couple rule</p>	<p>Summary: The couple rule is used to determine if a social security applicant is separated and/or single or a member of a couple. If considered a member of a couple, her and her perpetrator's income and assets are assessed jointly. This rule ties women's access to social security payment to the income and assets of their perpetrator. It uses reports of domestic violence as evidence of a committed relationship and evidence of domestic violence is interpreted as evidence for a relationship.</p> <p>This project aims to detail the dynamic between domestic violence, social security payment, and the couple rule. It will examine the pre-existing data set of Administrative Appeal Tribunal decisions of couple rule matters and compare this to decisions made in New Zealand (where domestic violence is interpreted as evidence of no relationship). These data sources provide rich, reliable and non-invasive qualitative detail of social security decision making.</p> <p>Method: This project proposes a qualitative content analysis of Administrative Appeal Tribunal couple rule decisions which involve domestic violence. The Administrative Appeal Tribunal decisions are a record of the activities undertaken by social security decision makers in the course of their work, including Centrelink and the police. Materials from the Tribunal will be analysed with a particular focus on identifying similarities among the cases, and also thematic differences among the priority populations including culturally and linguistically diverse women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, older women, women with a disability, women who are or have been incarcerated, lesbian, gay, and transgender women and intersex people, and women living in rural or remote areas. A similar process will be used to analyse New Zealand Social Security Appeals Authority 'de-facto rule' decisions.</p> <p>Priority populations: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse women, older women, women with disability, women who are, or have been, incarcerated, lesbian, gay, bisexual trans* and intersex women and women who live in rural and remote areas (as a focus)</p>	<p>Project length <1 year</p> <p>Budget \$21,004</p>	<p>Research sites National</p> <p>Lead QLD</p> <p>Partners QLD (2)</p>	<p>Lead: Dr Lyndal Sleep, Griffith University (Early Career Researcher)</p> <p>Research expertise</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof Heather Douglas, University of Queensland 2. Ms Zoe Rathus, Griffith University

Research priority	Project title	Summary	Length and budget	Jurisdiction	Research Team
The experiences, effects and impacts of violence experienced by women in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) communities.	Crossing the Line: Lived Experience of Sexual Violence among Trans women from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Backgrounds in Australia	<p>Summary: This multi-strand and multi-modal research examines the experiences of transgender life and sexual violence among transwomen from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds in Australia. It is crucial that, in our increasingly multicultural society, the voices and experiences of these women be heard in order to inform the development of responsive health policies and practices to optimise the wellbeing of this group. Data gathered will permit us to develop measures and interventions that can lead to actions to prevent sexual violence and improve services delivery to meet the needs of this vulnerable group in Australia. This project aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore the lived experience of being a transgender person among CALD transwomen. 2. Examine the discourses of sexual violence among CALD transwomen. 3. Investigate the experience of sexual violence among CALD transwomen 4. Identify strategies that CALD transwomen employ to deal with sexual violence in their everyday life and mechanism that can promote their health and wellbeing. 5. Compare the experiences of CALD transwomen with (a) non-CALD transgender women; (b) CALD cis-gender lesbian, bisexual and heterosexual women; and (c) non-CALD cis-gender lesbian, bisexual and heterosexual women. 6. Use the voices of this marginalised group to inform culturally-sensitive prevention and responses to sexual violence experienced by transwomen in Australia. 7. Develop resources for policy-makers and health providers for working effectively with CALD transwomen. <p>Method: Using a Feminist framework, both qualitative and quantitative data will be collected. The qualitative data will be collected from CALD transwomen and used to develop a survey from a diverse group. The quantitative findings of CALD transwomen will be compared with statistical data collected about from other Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Intersex and Queer (LGBTI) and non-CALD groups. The following tools will be used to gather data.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Systematic review of the literature on CALD transwomen's experiences of sexual violence as compared to other LGBTIQ and cis-gender heterosexual women groups. 2. Interviews with 30 transwomen to gather data about their lived experiences and phenomenological perspectives. 3. Photovoice and Video-blog of participants to chronicle important aspects of their lives that highlight their understanding, experiences and perspectives. 4. Review of publicly available information included in online forum discussion Australia wide with CALD and non-CALD transwomen to gather a larger picture of sexual violence as understood, experienced and managed by transwomen. 5. Survey of CALD and non-CALD women across Australia with respect to sexual violence (Transwomen (n = 200), LGBTI (n= 500), cis-gender heterosexual women (n=500) based on emergent data from interviews, photovoice and forum. Survey data will be analysed to describe, identify and compare sexual violence occurrence and factors across the groups. <p>Priority populations: Culturally and Linguistically Diverse women, lesbian, gay, bisexual trans* and intersex women (as explicit topic)</p>	<p>Project length 2+ years</p> <p>Budget \$261,820</p>	<p>Research sites 1. NSW 2. VIC</p> <p>Lead NSW</p> <p>Partners NSW (6)</p>	<p>Lead: Prof Pranee Liamputtong, Western Sydney University</p> <p>Research expertise 1. Prof Janette Perz, Western Sydney University 2. Prof Jane Ussher, Western Sydney University 3. Prof Virginia Schmied, Western Sydney University 4. Dr Tinashe Dune, Western Sydney University 5. Dr Brahm Marjadi, Western Sydney University</p> <p>Practice expertise 1. Dr Eloise Brook, The Gender Centre</p> <p>Research partners An advisory Committee and Stakeholder Engagement with national LGBTIQ and sexual violence stakeholders (e.g. policy experts with respect to sexual violence and/or LGBTIQ health and wellbeing) will assist in all stages of the research, including to contribute to identification of a final set key priorities, challenges and facilitators to guide the research.</p>

Strategic Research Theme 2: Gender inequality and primary prevention

Research priority	Project title	Summary	Length and budget	Jurisdiction	Research Team
Design, evaluation and monitoring of scale-up programs that enable successful prevention program to transfer from one setting to another and/or use of targeted prevention strategies for new population groups.	Young people as agents of change in preventing violence against women	<p>Summary: This research begins with a broad hypothesis that gender-based respectful relationships education among young people is an essential element in preventing domestic violence. The existing literature and evidence reveals that respectful relationships programs can impact positively on awareness of domestic and family violence, however there is limited evidence of influence on behaviours and actions (Flood & Kendrick, 2012; the National Plan; Stanley et al, 2016). This project will adopt an innovative action-research approach that engages young people actively in the design, implementation, and critical reflection on the peer-to-peer R4Respect violence prevention program. The research will evaluate the impact that one peer-to-peer respectful relationships program, R4Respect, on influencing the views of young people and the actions they may pursue to build more respectful relationships. This research aims to inform ways young people can effectively engage in positive change that promotes gender equality and reduces the prevalence of violence against women following participation in the program. Young people aged 17-25 years will be included as participants and/or researchers through a Youth Research Group. This positions young people as both learners and agents of change. This is a cross-jurisdictional collaborative research project between Griffith University, Qld, Ruby Gaea Sexual Assault Service, Darwin, NT, and YFS Ltd., Logan, Qld. The research team will collect data from young people and adult stakeholders in Darwin, NT and Logan, Queensland.</p> <p>This project will measure both:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The views and actions of the young participants (YPs) on what constitutes harm and respect in relationships; and 2. The views of the young participants and educators (stakeholders) on the utility of the peer-to-peer respectful relationships education model. <p>The primary aims of this research are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To improve the understanding young people have of respectful relationships and gender equality in order to reduce the prevalence of violence against women and girls. 2. To expand the evidence-base about how to engage in understanding and advocating for respectful relationships with young people. 3. To position young people at the centre of the research process as experts in order to focus on their perspectives, skills development, and future actions. <p>Method: A qualitative method featuring individual and small group interviews with young people participating in the R4Respect educational sessions, adult educators and adult mentors, will provide the primary source of data collection (n=95). A Youth Research Group will be established to enable young people to guide the design, implementation and translation of findings and follow-up action arising from the research. With input from the Youth Research Group, the following strategies will be adopted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design of pre-and-post survey tools (R4Respect participation pre-post survey, and peer education assessment survey tool), and interview schedules for individual and group application with young people and adult stakeholders. 2. Delivery of R4Respect program in 2 locations (Logan, 2xgroups of 25; Darwin, 1xgroup of 25), with each group receiving a minimum of 2x2 hour sessions. 3. Post program delivery survey and interview administration with young people (immediate). 4. Follow-up survey and interview administration with young people (4 months post program delivery). 	<p>Project length 1-2 years</p> <p>Budget \$173,104</p>	<p>Research sites 1. QLD 2. NT</p> <p>Lead QLD</p> <p>Partners 1. QLD (2) 2. NT (1)</p>	<p>Lead: Dr Karen Struthers, Griffith University (Early Career Researcher)</p> <p>Research expertise 1. Prof Clare Tilbury, Griffith University</p> <p>Practice expertise 1. Beenush Khokar, YFS Ltd 2. Ms Samantha Chung, Ruby Gaea Sexual Assault Service</p>

		5. Follow-up survey and interview administration with adult stakeholders (educators and mentors). Priority populations: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women (as explicit topic)			
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Strategic Research Theme 3: Service responses and interventions

Research priority	Project title	Summary	Length and budget	Jurisdiction	Research Team
<p>The nature of, and best responses to, the interaction between mental illness and women's vulnerability to violence, potentially including the nature of the relationship between symptoms and coping strategies (e.g., self-harm, drug and alcohol use) and exposure to violence.</p> <p>Effective interventions to support women and children experiencing violence through non-violence-specific service delivery.</p> <p>Effective early intervention initiatives, with a focus on building on existing resources and research and/or groups that may slip through mainstream services.</p>	<p>The MuSeS project: Multicultural and settlement services supporting women experiencing violence</p>	<p>Summary: There is increasing interest in reaching immigrant and refugee women experiencing violence through settlement and multicultural services, as all evidence suggests that women who have resettled in Australia face a range of particular and additional barriers that undermine access to violence-specific services. This project aims to provide evidence about the current and potential role of settlement and multicultural services in supporting immigrant and refugee women experiencing violence. It includes a specific focus on the interaction between the mental health of refugee women and family violence, identifying opportunities for specialist torture and trauma rehabilitation services to support refugee women experiencing family violence.</p> <p>Method: The research will be conducted in six geographical communities (two each in South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria) with large, rapidly growing and/or relative (for the state) density of settlement immigrant populations, and multicultural service providers. A mixed-method design will generate qualitative and quantitative data through the use of: response mapping; online survey of settlement and multicultural service providers' practices; in-depth interviews with settlement and multicultural service providers, service providers who specifically work in the provision of mental health services to refugees, and immigrants and refugees; and focus group discussions with volunteers working with settlement and multicultural services.</p> <p>The research team will draw on an intersectional feminist conceptual framework in analysing the qualitative data. A consultative data analysis workshop will be conducted in each state to give Advisory Group members and other stakeholders the opportunity to interrogate and provide feedback on early analysis about how the identified issues can be most effectively addressed.</p> <p>Priority populations: Culturally and Linguistically Diverse women (as explicit topic)</p>	<p>Project length 2+ years</p> <p>Budget \$297,874</p>	<p>Research sites</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SA 2. TAS 3. VIC <p>Lead VIC</p> <p>Partners</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VIC (5) 2. SA (2) 3. TAS (2) 	<p>Lead: Dr Cathy Vaughan, University of Melbourne (Early Career Researcher)</p> <p>Research expertise</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Lana Zannettino, Flinders University 2. Dr Linda Murray, University of Tasmania 3. Dr Karen Block, University of Melbourne 4. Dr Adele Murdolo, Multicultural Centre For Women's Health Inc. 5. Dr Regina Quiazon, Multicultural Centre For Women's Health Inc. <p>Practice expertise</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr Dean Barker, Australian Red Cross, TAS 2. Ms Wendy Lobwein, Senior Manager PVAW, AMES, VIC 3. Ms Eugenia Tsoulis, CEO, Australian Migrant Resource Centre (South Australia) 4. Mr Jo Szwarc, Manager Research and Policy, Foundation House (The Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture Inc)
<p>Effective early intervention initiatives, with a focus on building on existing resources and research and/or groups that may slip through mainstream services (e.g., women who have experienced sexual assault, women assessed as currently in 'low risk' situations, women who are in an ongoing relationship with the perpetrator, or women with disabilities).</p>	<p>Sustainability of Identification and Response to Family Violence in antenatal care (SUSTAIN Study)</p>	<p>Summary: This project aims to understand and support the integration of evidence based, effective screening, risk assessment and first-line response to domestic violence (DV) into the complex system of antenatal care. It will build on existing resources and research, to focus on women assessed as currently in "lower risk" situations, who are often not in contact with DV services but attend health services for pregnancy. Domestic violence (DV) screening in antenatal care is recommended by the World Health Organization: this screening aims to identify women at risk of DV, many of whom are in ongoing relationships with the perpetrator. In New South Wales, screening has occurred since 2003 with variability of screening rates and quality, while in Victoria providers will be mandated to screen using the Common Risk Assessment and Management Framework from 2018. This provides a unique</p>	<p>Project length 2+ years</p> <p>Budget \$298,077</p>	<p>Research sites</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NSW 2. VIC <p>Lead VIC</p> <p>Partners</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NSW (4) 2. VIC (5) 3. NZ (1) 	<p>Lead: Prof Kelsey Hegarty, University of Melbourne</p> <p>Research expertise</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Joanne Spangaro, University of New South Wales 2. Prof Della Forster, La Trobe University & Royal Women's Hospital 3. Prof Jane Koziol-Mclain, Auckland University of Technology (AUT) 4. Ms Elizabeth McLindon, Royal Women's Hospital <p>Practice expertise</p>

Research priority	Project title	Summary	Length and budget	Jurisdiction	Research Team
Effective interventions to support women and children experiencing violence through non-violence-specific service delivery (e.g., social work services, housing services including private rental, alcohol and other drug services, primary care, maternity services and immigration services).		<p>opportunity to learn from the two states' different antenatal experiences about what works, for whom, and in what context. The project aims to answer the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can we integrate and sustain screening, risk assessment and first-line response to domestic violence effectively into the complex health system of antenatal care? 2. How can we overcome the specific challenges for health systems in regional and rural settings with low resources? <p>Method: The study will begin with a scoping literature review that maps existing research about implementation of identification and response in antenatal care and complex health systems. Exploration of the practice of screening, risk assessment and response for women who have experienced DV in antenatal care sites across NSW and Victoria will occur using a case study methodology involving discussion groups with staff, surveys with women, and audits of hospital readiness. Findings will be synthesised and applied to the implementation model, with the conclusions confirmed at a one day workshop of all investigators, stakeholders and policy makers from across Australia. This research will inform antenatal care guidelines nationally, with a focus on low resource settings. Recommendations for sustainability of evidence-based, effective DV screening, risk assessment and response will be disseminated globally.</p> <p>Priority populations: Culturally and Linguistically Diverse women, women who live in rural and remote areas (as a focus)</p>			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Sue Matthews, Royal Women's Hospital 2. Dr Angela Crombie, Bendigo Health 3. Ms June Dyson, Echuca Regional Health 4. Ms Kate Gentle, Southern NSW Local Health District 5. Ms Lorena Matthews, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District 6. Ms Ly Johnson, Western Sydney Local Health District
<p>Effective service provision in rural, regional and remote areas, including technology assisted support services.</p> <p>Effective interventions to support women and children experiencing violence through non-violence-specific service delivery (e.g., social work services, housing services including private rental, alcohol and other drug services, primary care, maternity services and immigration services).</p>	Child at risk electronic medical record alert.	<p>Summary: Public health services are uniquely positioned to respond to women and children experiencing violence. This project seeks to understand the impact of a Child-At-Risk (CAR) electronic Medical Record (eMR) alert information sharing system on outcomes for women and children. The CAR alert is an alert applied to the eMR of children and at-risk pregnant women reported to the NSW Health Child Wellbeing Unit or the NSW Child Protection Helpline. The Northern NSW Local Health District (NNSW LHD) is seeking to understand whether use of the alert results in improved responses. This is the first study of its kind and, to date, the literature on these systems is small. Two staff groups will be surveyed. Group 1 (n=100) will be staff who have applied a CAR alert to the eMR of an at-risk pregnant woman or child. Group 2 (n=100) will be staff who have recently provided a health care service to a patient who has a CAR alert on their eMR. Via email and telephone, staff will be surveyed about the impact of the alert on their practice in responding to violence, abuse and neglect of women and children.</p> <p>Method: A questionnaire will be used to survey a large, local health district-wide cohort of staff (2 different groups) regarding the services they provide to at-risk children and pregnant women about their experience of using the alert system.</p> <p>Group 1 (n=100) will be staff who have applied a CAR alert to the eMR of an at-risk child or pregnant woman.</p> <p>Group 2 (n=100) will be staff who have recently provided a health care service to a woman/child who has an existing CAR alert on their eMR.</p> <p>Priority populations: Women who live in rural and remote areas (as a focus)</p>	<p>Project length < 1 year</p> <p>Budget \$50,000</p>	<p>Research sites 1. NSW</p> <p>Lead NSW</p> <p>Partners SA (1)</p>	<p>Lead: Ms Rosemaria Flaherty, Northern New South Wales (NSW) Local Health District (Service-led & Early Career Researcher)</p> <p>Research expertise Prof Fiona Arney, University of South Australia</p>

Research priority	Project title	Summary	Length and budget	Jurisdiction	Research Team
<p>The nature of, and best responses to, the interaction between mental illness and women's vulnerability to violence, potentially including the nature of the relationship between symptoms and coping strategies (e.g., self-harm, drug and alcohol use) and exposure to violence.</p> <p>The nature, and distinct characteristics of, violence against women in diverse and/or disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>Effective interventions to support women and children experiencing violence through non-violence-specific service delivery (e.g., social work services, housing services including private rental, alcohol and other drug services, primary care, maternity services and immigration services).</p> <p>Women's experiences of sexual assault, including its effects and impacts on women with specific demographic characteristics and/or vulnerabilities</p>	<p>Preventing gender-based violence in inpatient mental health units</p>	<p>Summary: This project will explore and document the experiences of gender-based violence occurring in inpatient mental health units to inform how policy and practice can be improved to make these environments safe for women. The project will investigate the circumstances in which gender-based violence is occurring as a result of inpatient mental health stays and what could have prevented the violence from occurring. The research will use as its foundation the involvement of women who have experienced violence and draw on their knowledge to provide recommendations for future prevention and to promote the best interests and safety of women. The research will be informed by two research questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the experiences of gender-based violence for women staying in adult inpatient mental health units? 2. How can these experiences inform and improve policy and service delivery? <p>Method: This project will build on knowledge identified through a review of academic, grey and other literature on gender-based violence (including sexual assault) occurring in inpatient mental health units. New insights will be obtained through data collection consisting of interviews with approximately 30 women who have experienced gender-based violence (including sexual assault) as a result of inpatient mental health stays. The project will also include presentation of the data through at least five workshops to mental health service providers, and developing policy guidelines which will help prevent gender-based violence in these settings.</p> <p>Priority populations: Women with disability (as explicit topic)</p>	<p>Project length 1-2 years</p> <p>Budget \$123,645</p>	<p>Research sites 1. NSW 2. VIC</p> <p>Lead VIC</p> <p>Partners 1. VIC (2) 2. NSW (1)</p>	<p>Lead: Dr Juliet Watson, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (Early Career Researcher)</p> <p>Research expertise 1. Dr Chris Maylea, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology 2. A/Prof Suellen Murray, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology 3. A/Prof Russell Roberts, Charles Sturt University</p> <p>Practice expertise 1. Mental Health Legal Centre Inc. 2. NorthWestern Mental Health</p>

Research priority	Project title	Summary	Length and budget	Jurisdiction	Research Team
<p>The effectiveness of prevention and early intervention activities targeted at people with disabilities.</p> <p>Effective early intervention initiatives, with a focus on building on existing resources and research and/or groups that may slip through mainstream services (e.g., women who have experienced sexual assault, women assessed as currently in 'low risk' situations, women who are in an ongoing relationship with the perpetrator, or women with disabilities).</p> <p>Effective interventions to support women and children experiencing violence through non-violence-specific service delivery (e.g., social work services, housing services including private rental, alcohol and other drug services, primary care, maternity services and immigration services).</p> <p>The prevalence and nature of violence experienced by children and adolescents; with a particular focus on female teenagers, very young children and/or post-separation violence including violence that occurs in the context of child contact.</p> <p>The extent and nature of the effects of violence against women on women's physical and psychological well-being.</p>	<p>Mothers and children with disability using early intervention services: identifying and sharing promising practice</p>	<p>Summary: Disability in mothers and/or children is a particular feature in families' lives which makes it harder for domestic violence early intervention initiatives to effectively support them. Services which support people with disability often have very limited capacity in responding to risks of family violence, while services focused on violence prevention are often not skilled in identifying and addressing disability support needs. This results in risks for these families of either unmet need or of inappropriate response, such as entry into the child protection system, due to lack of available alternative support.</p> <p>Despite these challenges, innovative and responsive practices are occurring to support families where disability features. However, little is known about the ways that early intervention services respond to women and their children to meet their needs and preferences, and build their resources and capacity, organisationally and at wider social levels.</p> <p>This project aims to document and improve practice for mainstream early intervention domestic and family violence services to better engage families with a child or parent with disability. In particular, it aims to develop an understanding of facilitators and barriers to early intervention support for families where: (a) domestic and family violence is a risk; and (b) disability in parents and/or children within the family impacts the support received.</p> <p>Barriers and facilitators will be explored from multiple perspectives, including children (ages 8-18) with disability, mothers with disability, and staff in four Family Referral Services sites. Family Referral Services (FRS) are intended to assist children, young people, and families who do not meet the statutory threshold for child protection intervention, but would benefit from accessing specific services to address current problems, prevent escalation, and foster a protective and nurturing environment.</p> <p>At a local practice level, this research will identify promising and effective practices in service delivery, disseminate information on these practices to a practice, policy and research audience, and contextualise those practices in relation to the established evidence base. At a programmatic and policy level, it will provide new knowledge on the circumstances in which women with disability, and women who are the mothers of children with disability, seek and are provided with effective support. At a conceptual level, it will advance understandings of the nature and prevention of violence experienced by women and children with disability, and the circumstances in which safer environments can be facilitated.</p> <p>Method: A literature and policy review will focus on evidence of current promising practice of engagement by early intervention services for domestic and family violence with mothers and children with disability. Qualitative research will be undertaken with mothers and children with disability, and service delivery staff, across four Family Referral Services sites in NSW. Finally, a national workshop will be held with key stakeholders to develop agreed promising practice ideas/goals.</p> <p>The project will be guided by a women's project group and a children/young persons' advisory group.</p> <p>Priority populations: Women with disability, women who live in rural and remote areas (as explicit topic)</p>	<p>Project length 2+ years</p> <p>Budget \$254,076</p>	<p>Research sites NSW</p> <p>Lead NSW</p> <p>Partners NSW (6)</p>	<p>Lead: A/Prof kyli valentine, University of New South Wales</p> <p>Research expertise</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Sally Robinson, Southern Cross University, NSW 3. Dr BJ Newton, Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales <p>Practice expertise</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Southern NSW Family Referral Service (MacKillop) 2. Western NSW Family Referral Service (Uniting) 3. Western Sydney Family Referral Service (Relationships Australia NSW) 4. Northern NSW Family Referral Service (Social Futures)

Strategic Research Theme 4: Systems

Research priority	Project title	Summary	Length and budget	Jurisdiction	Research Team
<p>Evaluation of best practice policing, with a sensitivity to command structures, specific requirements in rural and remote areas, variation in response between stations/local area commands, and the appropriate protocols for the use of interpreters.</p> <p>The nature of, and best responses to, the interaction between mental illness and women's vulnerability to violence, potentially including the nature of the relationship between symptoms and coping strategies (e.g., self-harm, drug and alcohol use) and exposure to violence.</p> <p>Effective interventions to support women and children experiencing violence through non-violence-specific service delivery (e.g., social work services, housing services including private rental, alcohol and other drug services, primary care, maternity services and immigration services).</p> <p>The relationship between sexual assault and domestic and family violence. This might include intimate partner sexual violence, co-occurrence and/or re-victimisation across the life course.</p> <p>The extent and nature of the effects of violence against women on women's physical and psychological well-being.</p>	<p>Constructions of complex trauma and implications for women's wellbeing and safety from violence</p>	<p>Summary: Approximately one quarter of women who have experienced gendered violence, present complex trauma involving multiple types of physical and sexual victimisation and mental illness, substance abuse and ongoing victimisation. These women frequently come to the attention of health, welfare and law enforcement agencies. Understandings of complex trauma are, however, inconsistent across these services, which leads to fragmented and sometimes ineffective responses from services and professionals. The guiding question of the study is: "How can agencies and services improve collaboration to meet the health and safety needs of women with complex trauma?" The aims of the project are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyse how complex trauma experienced by women is constructed in public policy at a national, state and territory level. 2. Examine institutional approaches to women's complex trauma in the mental health, alcohol and other drug and sexual assault/domestic violence sectors in New South Wales and Queensland. 3. Document how women with complex trauma understand complex trauma, and their experiences and encounters with agencies while seeking help. 4. Develop models of improved and collaborative responses to enhance the wellbeing and safety of women with complex trauma and their children. 5. Policy and practice recommendations to enhance the wellbeing and safety of women with complex trauma, developed in partnership with an expert steering committee. <p>Method: This project will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A policy audit of relevant national, state and territory policy documents. 2. Documentary analysis of institutional approaches to complex trauma with key alcohol and other drug, mental health and sexual assault/domestic violence services in Queensland and New South Wales (six services in each state). 3. Interviews with thirty professional stakeholders about how they understand and respond to complex trauma, and fifty women with complex trauma about their understandings of complex trauma, experiences of help-seeking, and views on how service responses can be improved. 4. Six workshops run by two members of the research team, including at least one clinician for professional stakeholders and women with complex trauma located in urban, regional and rural areas of New South Wales and Queensland to feed back the findings of the study and to engage stakeholders in the co-design of improved professional responses to address the needs of women with complex trauma. <p>Data analysis approaches will involve a thematic and discourse analysis.</p> <p>Priority populations: Women with disability, women who are, or have been, incarcerated, women who live in rural and remote areas (as explicit topic)</p>	<p>Project length 2+ years</p> <p>Budget \$179,099</p>	<p>Research sites 1. NSW 2. QLD</p> <p>Lead NSW</p> <p>Partners 1. NSW (4) 2. QLD (1)</p>	<p>Lead: Dr Michael Salter, Western Sydney University</p> <p>Research expertise 1. Dr Elizabeth Conroy, Western Sydney University 2. Prof Jane Ussher, Western Sydney University 3. A/Prof Molly Dragiewicz, Queensland University of Technology</p> <p>Practice expertise 1. Dr Jackie Burke, Jackie Burke Psychology and Consulting, WSU fellow 2. Prof Warwick Middleton, Director, Trauma & Dissociation Unit, Belmont Hospital</p> <p>Research partners Confirmed advisory group members: 1. Blue Knot Foundation 2. Jarrah House 3. Canberra Rape Crisis 4. International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation</p>

Research priority	Project title	Summary	Length and budget	Jurisdiction	Research Team
<p>Assessment of the impact of court processes and initiatives that support accurate assessments of the dynamics of domestic and family violence in specific cases and, ultimately, holding perpetrators to account.</p> <p>Improved understanding of the prevalence and impacts of violence against women, especially women from marginalised or small-population communities, based on existing data (i.e., additional analysis of existing data sets).</p>	<p>Reshaping the Australian Judiciary's Understanding of Intimate Partner Violence</p>	<p>Summary: This project aims to develop a basis for alternative judicial reasoning in the High Court in a test case concerning intimate partner violence. Using <i>Western Australia v Liyanage</i> (2016) WASC 12 as a test case, a synthesis of research about intimate partner violence as coercive control and as a form of social entrapment will be organised into legal arguments about the law of self-defence.</p> <p>Method: Evidence based social research and knowledge will be translated into legal argument for the purpose of contesting the construction and application of laws. This work will be tailored to address three issues in the test case:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) exclusion of the social worker's evidence; (ii) implicit assertions that the defendant could easily have left her husband; (iii) manslaughter as a 'compromise,' verdict, which in this context, is not justified by legal principles of self-defence. <p>Priority populations: Culturally and Linguistically Diverse women, women who are, or have been, incarcerated (as explicit topic)</p>	<p>Project length 1-2 years</p> <p>Budget \$26,216</p>	<p>Research sites WA</p> <p>Lead WA</p> <p>Partners 1. WA (1) 2. NZ (1)</p>	<p>Lead: Ms Stella Tarrant, University of Western Australia</p> <p>Research expertise 1. Prof Julia Tolmie, University of Auckland</p> <p>Practice expertise 1. Mr George Giudice, George Giudice Law Chambers</p>
<p>Effective early intervention initiatives, with a focus on building on existing resources and research and/or groups that may slip through mainstream services (e.g., women who have experienced sexual assault, women assessed as currently in 'low risk' situations, women who are in an ongoing relationship with the perpetrator, or women with disabilities).</p> <p>Effective integrated services, with a focus on medium and long term interventions and the scale up of programs for broader use; for example 'Safe at Home' programs and Victoria's Individual Flexible Packages.</p>	<p>Prioritising women's safety in Australian perpetrator interventions: the purpose and practices of partner contact</p>	<p>Summary: This project will provide a deeper understanding of how Men's Behaviour Change Programs (MBCPs) support women and children through Partner Contact (PC). This understanding will contribute to improved quality of services provided to victims by identifying gaps between theory and practice and providing practice guidance and considerations for the field. It is a well-established expectation of the perpetrator intervention system that women and children are provided appropriate support, and this research will help identify how best to achieve this. It will also highlight the importance of PC as an opportunity for meaningful engagement; a key accountability and quality assurance measure within perpetrator interventions; and to provide a means of minimising collusion and increasing accountability around self-reporting. This project will help establish perspective on considerations for good practice across all of this diversity. It will provide an important, and internationally significant, influence to the development of quality responses, adding to the evidence base for this work.</p> <p>Method: A mixed methods design is proposed which includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A literature review. 2. Survey of MBCP providers nationally and a short survey of women whose partners have attended MBCPs. 3. In-depth interviews with managers, facilitators and PC providers. <p>Incorporating these three approaches will contribute to triangulation of data and developing a detailed understanding about partner contact in the context of MBCPs.</p> <p>Priority populations: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse women, lesbian, gay, bisexual trans* and intersex women, women who live in rural and remote areas (as a focus).</p>	<p>Project length 2 years</p> <p>Budget \$259,731.68</p>	<p>Research sites: 1. National (interviews with MBCP from all jurisdictions)</p> <p>Lead: WA</p> <p>Partners: 1. WA (3) 2. VIC (1)</p>	<p>Lead: Prof Donna Chung, Curtin University</p> <p>Research expertise 1. Mr Damian Green, Curtin University 2. Sarah Anderson, Curtin University 3. Mr Rodney Vlasis, Independent researcher, VIC</p> <p>Practice expertise 1. Stopping Family Violence Inc. WA</p>

Research priority	Project title	Summary	Length and budget	Jurisdiction	Research Team
<p>Embedding cultural security and cultural competency into mainstream services.</p> <p>Identification of effective legal processes that allow for full participation of, and access to justice for, individuals with additional communication needs.</p>	<p>Kungas' Trauma experiences and effects on behaviour in Central Australia</p>	<p>Summary: This project is a pilot study which aims to understand Central Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's experiences of trauma, effects on behaviour, and subsequent incarceration. This action research project will be undertaken through the Kungas Stopping Violence Program and will include key stakeholders within the community to better understand trauma and violence, while highlighting the need for coordinated service responses.</p> <p>Method: This pilot study will use an Action Research methodology with purposive sampling (clients of Kungas). Interviews will be completed with women who have participated in the program, along with internal and external stakeholders.</p> <p>The central qualitative approach will be 'dadirri', an approach involving sitting and listening to participants. Interviews will be undertaken using dadirri. A number of interview analysis techniques will be used including dadirri, thematic analysis, and statement alignment with key themes.</p> <p>Priority populations: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women who are, or have been, incarcerated (as explicit topic).</p>	<p>Project length < 1 year</p> <p>Budget \$50,000</p>	<p>Research sites NT</p> <p>Lead NT</p> <p>Partners 1. NT (2) 2. NSW (1)</p>	<p>Lead: Ms Miriam Bevis, Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service</p> <p>Research expertise 1. Prof Judy Atkinson, We Al-li Trust 2. Dr Michelle Sweet, Menzies School of Health Research 3. Ms Leisa McCarthy, Menzies School of Health Research</p>

Peer Assessors

ANROWS is incredibly grateful for the valuable contribution of the following research, policy and practice experts, who participated in peer assessment panels that reviewed the 97 applications submitted to the 2017 Research Priorities grants round.

- Abigail Reed, Principal Policy Officer, Domestic and Family Violence Reform, Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
- Dr Ali Elder, University of South Australia
- Prof Andrew Day, Director Indigenous Research, Indigenous Education and Research Centre, James Cook University
- Anne Redman, Director – Evaluate, Sax Institute
- Prof Bob Pease, Adjunct Professor, University of Tasmania and Deakin University
- A/Prof Christina Bryant, Director Clinical Psychology Programme, Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences, University of Melbourne
- Dr Claire Spivakovsky, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, School of Social Sciences, Monash University,
- Prof Colleen Fisher, Head of School, School of Population and Global Health, University of Western Australia
- Prof Deborah Loxton, Co-director Research Centre for Generational Health and Ageing, Deputy Director of the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health, University of Newcastle
- Dr Deborah Western, Lecturer-researcher, Social Work, Monash University
- Delilah MacGillivray, General Manager, Programs and Partnerships, National Centre of Indigenous Excellence
- A/Prof Emma Williams, Northern Institute, Principal Research Fellow, Charles Darwin University
- Dr Fadwa Al-Yaman, Head, Indigenous and Maternal Health Group, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- Fiona Mort, Director, Office for Women, South Australian Department for Communities & Social Inclusion
- Dr Gina-Maree Sartore, Senior Research Specialist, Parenting Research Centre
- Kiri Bear, Kiri Bear Consulting
- Leona Berrie, Manager, WWILD
- Professor Lesley Chenoweth, ProVice Chancellor, Head of Logan Campus, Griffith University
- Dr Lixia Qu, Senior Research Fellow, Australian Institute of Family Studies
- Liz Little, CEO, Rural Alive and Well, Tasmania
- Mandy Gadsdon, Executive Director, Aboriginal Engagement & Coordination and Policy & Learning, Western Australian Department for Child Protection and Family Support
- Michelle Gouley, Unit Head, Burden of Disease and Mortality Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- Moo Baulch, CEO, DVNSW
- Nicole Moore, Senior Manager, Performance and Accountability, Community Services Directorate, ACT Government
- Rachael Mackay, Training Co-ordinator and Health Promotion Officer, Women's Health Goulburn North East
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- Sam Bowden, Independent consultant
- Dr Sue Dyson, Adjunct Associate Professor, The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University
- Dr Suzanne Mallick, Principal Policy Analyst and Team Leader, Multicultural, Children and Young People, Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Dr Tania Matruglio, Principal – Research, Performance & Evaluation, Women NSW, Department of Family and Community Services
- Than Tun, Research and Data, Family Safety Branch, Australian Government Department of Social Services
- Wendy Lobwein, Senior Manager Prevention of Violence Against Women (PVAW) Respect and Responsibility Program, AMES Australia