

ANROWS

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

# AHURI National Conference 2017

## The Safe House

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### The role of housing in domestic and family violence

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# National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022

1. Communities are safe and free from violence
2. Relationships are respectful
3. Indigenous communities are strengthened
4. Services meet the needs of women and their children experiencing violence
5. Justice responses are effective
6. Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account

# DFV & homelessness

- 1. Vulnerability to domestic and family violence and homelessness**
- 2. Strategies to address DFV related homelessness**

# Main reason for seeking homelessness

The Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

**Domestic and family violence**  
is the main reason people access homelessness services.

It accounts for 25% of all cases of such help seeking.



# Women's experiences of violence



Women are more likely than men to **experience violence perpetrated in the home by some-one known to them,**



and mostly by a current or former **male intimate partner.**



Women are nearly **3 TIMES** more likely than men to have experienced violence by a partner

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Women are more likely to have **experienced violence by a previous partner** than a current partner



# ABS definition of 'homelessness'

'home'lessness, not 'roof'lessness.

- Adequacy of the dwelling;
- Security of tenure in the dwelling; and
- Control of, and access to space for social relations.

# The Road Home

- Specialist workers to assess safety and support needs
- Brokerage funds to stabilise housing/increase security
- Integrated criminal justice, health and community service

# Four pillars of “Safe at home”

- 1. Maximising women’s safety**
- 2. A co-ordinated or integrated response**
- 3. A homelessness prevention strategy**
- 4. Enhancing women’s economic security**

(Breckenridge et al. 2016)



# Economic security: Priorities for action

- Awareness of economic abuse
- Reducing systemic risks
- Adequate resourcing
- Specialist financial counselling
- Quality employment and industrial protections
- Improving responses by Centrelink and employment services
- Collaboration and integration
- Identifying and expanding good practice

# Conclusion

- Domestic violence and homelessness complex
- Evidence-based solutions
- No quick fixes
- Commitment and effort from diverse sectors