

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2017-18 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities

Question No: SQ17-000296

Topic: VAW Campaign

Hansard page: Written

Senator David Leyonhjelm asked:

Regarding extreme violence against women and the report by TNS consultancy on this issue that underpinned the violence against women campaign, does the view in the report that disrespect and gender inequality are at the heart of the issue more closely reflect the ‘patriarchal’ perspective in the literature on partner violence, or the ‘family conflict’ perspective?

Answer:

Research into intimate partner violence may be categorised into a variety of approaches and perspectives, including the patriarchal perspective and family conflict perspective. Both perspectives recognise gender power imbalance as a fundamental cause of violence. Both perspectives also acknowledge the role society plays in perpetuating and enforcing these power imbalances.

The national campaign *Stop it at the Start* was informed by a range of research, including the TNS research *Reducing violence against women and their children*. The TNS research did not claim to adopt either perspective, but acknowledged gender power imbalance as a fundamental cause of violence, and acknowledged the role society plays in perpetuating and enforcing these power imbalances through norms and behaviour.

TNS was commissioned to undertake research to:

- understand what young people believe around gender equality and respectful relationships, and how these attitudes influence their behaviour;
- understand who young people look up to, in order to identify target audiences for the campaign; and
- inform how to engage role models for young people to lead discussions about respectful relationships.