

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Domestic Violence

Senator: Leyonhjelm, David

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Question:

Senator LEYONHJELM: There are quite good data sources which would suggest that, although more than half of domestic violence victims are women, there is a sizeable proportion of cases where the victim is male. There are also assertions which obviously cannot be proven that it is substantially underreported on the grounds that male victims find it hard to be taken seriously. I am wondering if there is anything in any of the domestic violence programs that you are familiar with that take account of any of that.

Senator Cash: Again, we can get you more specific details from DSS in relation to the actual programs. But certainly as part of the national action plan we specifically fund MensLine. I will get you the final figure, but approximately \$2 million is given to MensLine in recognition of the fact that there are men out there who need a specific telephone hotline dedicated to men.

Senator LEYONHJELM: What is that \$2 million for men relative to how much you spend on women when it comes to domestic violence?

Senator Cash: Bear in mind again that there are services that are available within, say, the national action plan or the women's safety package that can be accessed by men. 1800RESPECT is funded as part of that and is accessible by men. We have specific perpetrator intervention plans et cetera. Those are very much for when men are perpetrators but they are specifically for men. We can get you a breakdown of the services and which ones can be accessed by men.

Answer:

Prevalence of domestic violence

Analysis from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Personal Safety Survey 2012 (the latest and most comprehensive data set available) indicates one in 19 men and one in six women have experienced violence from a current or former intimate partner. Both women and men are three times more likely to be physically assaulted by a man than by a woman. Women are

more likely to be assaulted in their homes than elsewhere, while men are more likely to be assaulted in a place of entertainment than elsewhere.¹

Services that can be accessed by male victims of domestic violence

There are a number of initiatives and services provided by the Commonwealth Government that can be accessed by male victims of violence.

- MensLine Australia is a national telephone and online support, information and referral service for men with family and relationship concerns, including men experiencing domestic violence. Funding for MensLine Australia under Family and Relationship Services (FaRS) is over \$20 million over five years to 30 June 2019.
- Male victims of violence can also access other general services under FaRS. FaRS organisations are funded more than \$322 million over five years to 30 June 2019.²
- 1800RESPECT is the national sexual assault, domestic and family violence service. The service is available to all victims of domestic and family violence, and sexual violence including men, women and children. Funding for 1800RESPECT is \$28.258 million from 2015 until 2018.

¹ Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS), "Violence against women: Additional analysis of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Personal Safety Survey, 2012", *Horizons Research Report, October 2015*; and ANROWS, "Violence against women: Key statistics", [http://media.aomx.com/anrows.org.au/s3fs-public/page-attachments/Violence-Against-Australian-Women-Key-Statistics%20\(6%20pages%20revised\)_v.2014.11.12.pdf](http://media.aomx.com/anrows.org.au/s3fs-public/page-attachments/Violence-Against-Australian-Women-Key-Statistics%20(6%20pages%20revised)_v.2014.11.12.pdf) (accessed 24/03/17).

² Please note this figure includes the \$20 million for MensLine Australia.