

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Group 2**

**Program 1.1**

**Question No. 28**

**Senator Boyce asked the following question at the hearing on 29 May 2013:**

**Senator BOYCE:** This is a more general question towards the federal government: Victoria's plan on violence against women and children makes the point that a quarter of all perpetrators of violence against women and children are repeat offenders. Could someone perhaps talk in terms of the standing council as to whether this statistic would be a generally national one, and whether this is something that is being considered within a broader context than what each state is going to do about it.

**Ms Glanville:** I would find it hard to comment on that. It would not surprise me if that was in fact replicated in places other than Victoria. That would certainly not—

**Senator BOYCE:** It would not surprise me either, but do we know?

**Ms Glanville:** No. We would have to take that on notice. Perhaps it might be that the Australian Institute of Criminology has looked at some of this research and trending in the way that you are suggesting. It is certainly something that we could take on notice and have a further look at.

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

The Department does not have any specific statistics regarding the prevalence of repeat domestic violence perpetrators at the national level. However, under the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022 the Government has committed \$3m to creating a dedicated research stream on perpetrator interventions through the National Centre of Excellence. The Commonwealth is also working with the states and territories on a national data and reporting framework.

However, while the Department does not have specific statistics, the Australian Institute of Criminology has identified a limited number of studies at the state and territory level that provide an indication of the scale of repeat victimisation experienced by those reporting domestic violence. This can be treated as an indicator of the prevalence of repeat domestic violence perpetrators on the assumption that much of the repeat victimisation will be perpetrated by the same offenders.

A Study in the Northern Territory<sup>1</sup> found that only 18% of those reporting domestic violence to an agency had not experienced previous violence, while 17% reported daily violence, 24% reported weekly violence, 8% reported monthly violence and 17% reported violence either annually or less often. Further, 43% of victims who used domestic violence services between 2002-2005 had been previous clients of that service.

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<sup>1</sup> Johnstone K and O'Rourke S (2006) Northern Territory Government domestic violence data report 2006, Occasional Paper No. 42. Darwin, Northern Territory Government.

A study of domestic violence in South Australia<sup>2</sup> found that in a general population survey of 5,480 residents, 17.8% reported ever experiencing domestic violence. Of these, 75.9% reported experiencing domestic violence on more than one occasion.

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<sup>2</sup> Dal Grande E, Hickling J, Taylor A and Woollacott, T (2003) Domestic violence in South Australia: a population survey of males and females, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 27(5) 543-550.