preventing violence against women and gender equity in local government

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MAV Policy Adviser, Preventing Violence Against Women
it is prevalent

1 in 3

women have experienced physical violence since the age of 15

ABS Personal Safety Survey 2013
it is costly

Cost to the Australian economy in 2009

$13,600,000,000

Estimated to rise to by 2020

$15,600,000,000

KPMG 2009
it is pervasive

In 2014/15, Victoria Police attended more than 68,000 family violence incidents.

186 homes a day
it is deadly serious

Top eight risk factors contributing to the disease burden in women aged 15-44 years, Victoria, Australia, 2001

- Illicit drugs
- Alcohol harm
- Intimate partner violence
- Physical inactivity
- Body weight
- Cholesterol
- Blood pressure
- Tobacco

Percentage of total burden
gender equality and prevalence of violence

UN Women, Investing in Gender Equality: Ending Violence Against Women 2010
National Community Attitudes Survey

• 17,500 survey participants

• Encouraging:
  ❖ only 4% to 6% (depending on scenario) believe VAW can be justified

• Concerning:
  ❖ increase from 3 in 10 to 4 in 10 agreeing that rape results from men not being able to control their need for sex

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yqb8Uzyej78
MAV leadership statement

‘Research shows that the key determinant of violence against women is the persisting inequities between men and women’.

VicHealth, 2007
the reach of council
violence against women

• Primary prevention
  – addressing the key drivers of violence against women before it occurs (gender inequality)

• Early Intervention
  – actions targeted to address early signs of violent behaviour

• Tertiary / response
  – services to reduce the effects of violence and prevent its reoccurrence
staff family violence clause and policy
local laws - animal management
emergency management

Gender and Emergency Management

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) has developed a gender and emergency management (GEM) strategy which aims to reduce the negative consequences of gender-blind practices.

Studies have shown that the incidence of family violence increases post-disaster and that there are significant differences in how men and women experience and recover from disasters. In developed countries men are more likely to die in floods and bushfires than women, and men strongly influence family decisions to stay and defend homes during bushfires, sometimes with tragic results. Mental health issues, including suicide, can also manifest in different ways for men and women. To positively affect such outcomes, the influence of gender roles and differences must be understood and addressed.

The MAV’s GEM strategy will help councils and their partners improve their understanding of gender differences and incorporate gender considerations into their emergency management policy, planning, decision-making and service delivery. As a first step this fact sheet has been developed to raise awareness of how

Why is gender relevant to emergency management?

Women and men experience disasters differently. Gendered roles such as caring for children or knowing how to operate a generator or water pump affect how women and men will experience and recover from natural disasters. Gender often shapes how people perceive what is risky, who makes decisions and how individuals get support or help following disasters. Being blind to these different needs can have serious implications for the protection and recovery of people caught up in disasters.

What are the benefits of integrating gender considerations into emergency management?

Addressing gender issues in emergency management will result in more resilient and equitable communities. Emergency management is more effective when based on
libraries
sports and recreation

Active Women and Girls in Moreland Strategy
Maribyrnong Council Youth Services
- Respect Courage Integrity
messaging on footpaths
messaging through golf
messaging on council buildings
messaging on council fleet

No more silence about family violence.

Shouldn’t everyone have a safe place to go home to?

Children are watching us. Say yes to equality.

Prevent Violence Against Women
messaging on garbage trucks
messaging from the sky
thank you

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tB7Pkcue9Rk