

# *Changing the picture:*

A resource to support prevention of violence  
against Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander women  
and the children



**Our  
WATCH**  
End violence against  
Women And Their Children

# Today's presentation

1. Who is Our Watch and why are we doing this work?
2. Overview of key content
3. Implications for policy and practice
4. Putting prevention into Practice



## Who is Our Watch and why are we doing this work?

- National foundation for the prevention of violence against women
- All of us, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, non-Indigenous people, communities, organisations, and all levels of government have a responsibility to work together to prevent violence against Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander women and their children.



# 2.

## Overview of key content



# Aims of the project

- Inform a deeper, intersectional understanding of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and its underlying drivers; in order to:
- Identify what is needed for effective prevention.
- Guidance to support evidence-informed, intersectional approaches to prevention policy and practice, across jurisdictions and sectors.
- Improve practice effectiveness and resource allocation by articulating principles of good practice.
- Showcase examples of existing work, to offer lessons to be learned, or approaches that could be replicated or adapted in other contexts.



# Development process

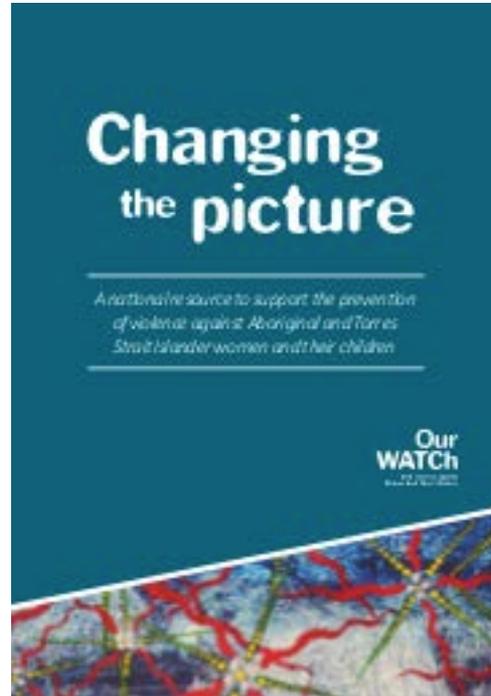
- Advisory Group of 11 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women (via public EOI process).
- Extensive literature review – prioritizing publications by Indigenous authors and organisations
- First round ‘open’ consultations
- Drafting in consultation with Advisory Group
- Second round consultation to seek feedback on draft approach
- Formal review by seven Indigenous academics and practitioners, and ANROWS



# Three part resource



Background paper



Action framework (main document)



Exec summary 6-pager

# Background paper



- How the resource was developed, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement
- Rationale – why this resource is needed
- Definitions, scope and approach
- The current picture: prevalence statistics, specific dynamics and impacts of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women
- Builds a **conceptual model** for understanding this violence and its underlying drivers
- **Intersectional** approach: combines an understanding of the impacts of colonization, trauma and racism; with a gendered analysis

# Key messages from the conceptual model



- Violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women is a national problem, requiring a national solution.
- This violence is perpetrated by men of all cultural backgrounds, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, and in diverse settings and geographical contexts
- This violence has '*some similarities, and many differences*' to violence against women generally
- The drivers of this violence (*next slide*) are complex and intersecting

# The underlying drivers of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women



## Ongoing impacts of colonisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families and communities

- Intergenerational and collective trauma
- Systemic oppression, disempowerment, racism
- Destruction/disruption of traditional cultures, family and community relationships and community norms about violence
- Personal experience of/exposure to violence
- Condoning of violence within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

Co/



## Ongoing impacts of colonisation for non-Indigenous people and society

- Racialised structural inequalities of power
- Entrenched racism in social norms, attitudes and practices
- Perpetration of racist violence
- Condoning of, and insufficient accountability for, violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



- Gendered drivers of violence against women in Australia (identified in *Change the story*)
  - » Condoning of violence against women
  - » Men's control of decision making and limits to women's independence
  - » Stereotyped constructions of masculinity and femininity
  - » Disrespect towards women and male peer relations that emphasise aggression
- Additional gendered drivers of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women
  - » Intersection of racism and sexism
  - » Impacts of colonial patriarchy on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, gender roles, men, women and relationships

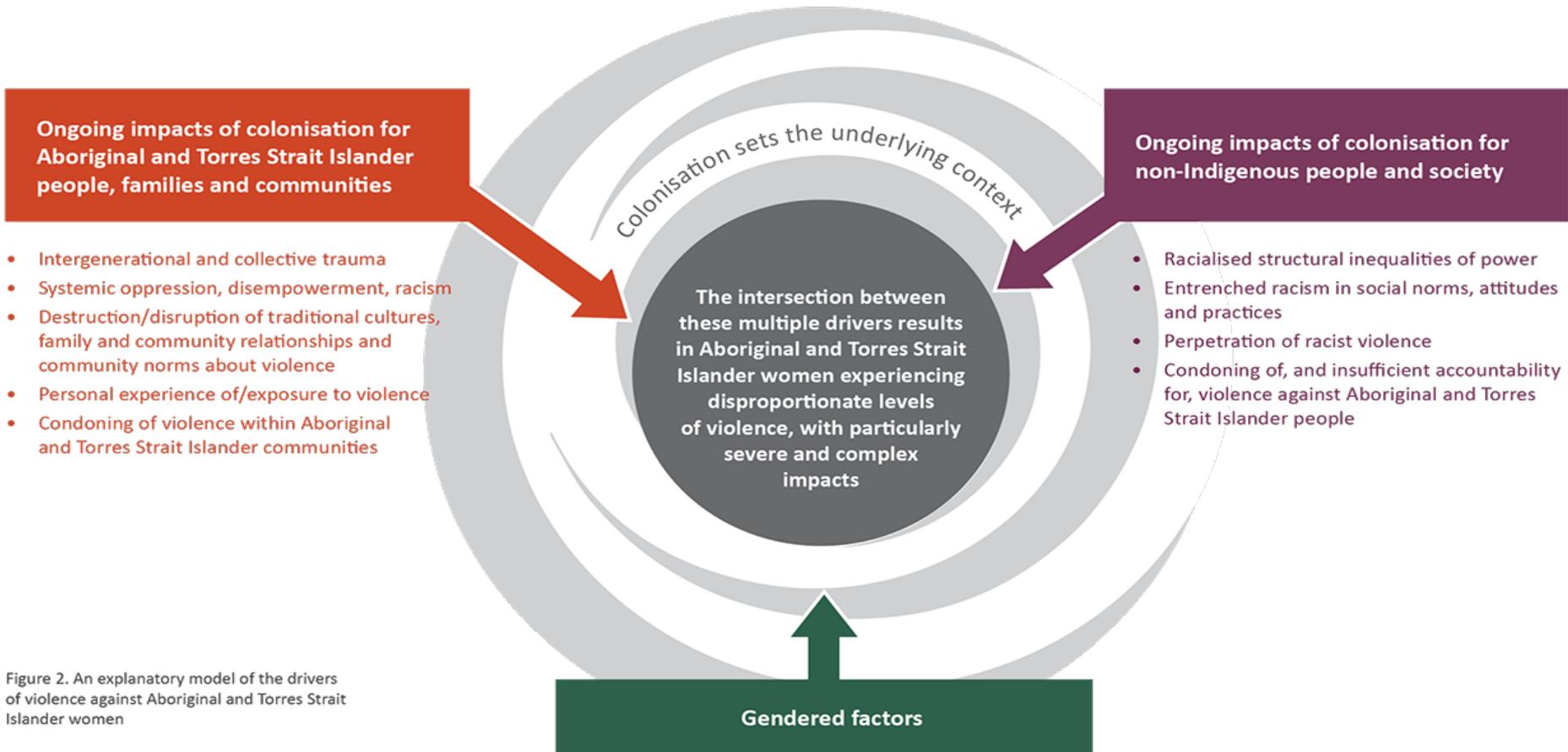


Figure 2. An explanatory model of the drivers of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women

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# 3.

## Implications for policy and practice



# Putting Prevention into Practice

- What is required to ensure this document is put into practice and not just another piece of policy work that sits on the shelf?
- What is the role of the sector, government, community and individuals in implementing this work?
- Where do you see yourselves/ your organisation when it comes to engaging in this work?
- What needs to happen in your community, locally and at a state level to prevent violence in your communities?



# - Our Watch's role

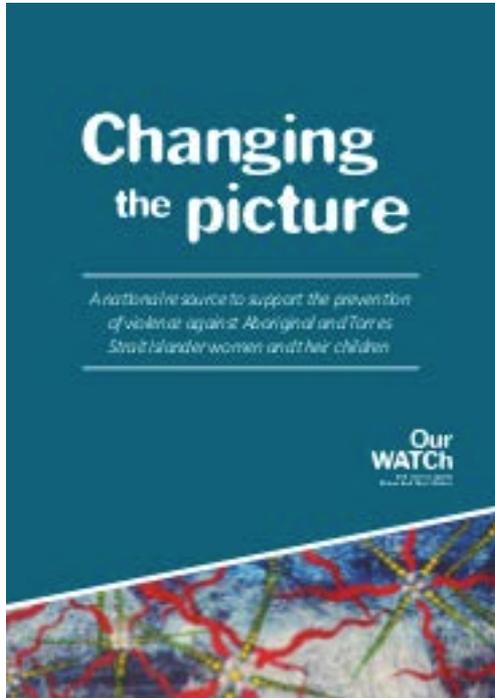
## **Our Watch has committed to Integrate *CTP* into all our own work**

- A core piece of our evidence base, sitting alongside *Change the story*, its approach and principles informing all our work
- Cross-organizational integration into all Our Watch ongoing work – Policy, Practice, Marketing and Communications
- Identify new opportunities to build partnerships and coalitions that allow us to contribute to implementing some of the actions and to work as an allies to Indigenous organisations

## **Promote understanding, uptake and implementation by others**

- Promote integration of key principles and actions into government policy frameworks and other decision-making processes
- Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to implement actions
- Encourage other non-Indigenous organisations – to identify actions they can contribute to as well as identifying the role they need to play in supporting Indigenous women and community organisations

# The action framework



Builds on the conceptual model to identify:

- Essential prevention actions – aligned to each of the three underlying drivers
- Supporting actions – to address reinforcing factors
- Principles for prevention in practice
- Roles for different stakeholders – government and non-government, Indigenous and non-Indigenous
- Examples of existing prevention initiatives

# Action 1



## **Address the legacies and ongoing impacts of colonisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families and communities**

- Heal the impacts of intergenerational trauma, and strengthening culture and identity
- Strengthen and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families
- Implement specific initiatives for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls, boys and men and children and young people
- Challenge the condoning of violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Increase access to justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

## Action 2



### **Address the legacies and ongoing impacts of colonisation for non-Indigenous people, and across Australian society**

- Challenge and prevent all forms of racism, indifference, ignorance and disrespect towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and cultures
- Address racialised power inequalities and amend discriminatory policies and practices
- Challenge the condoning of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

## Action 3



### **Address the gendered drivers of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women**

- Implement intersectional approaches to preventing violence against women across the Australian population
- Challenge the condoning of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women by challenging both racist and sexist attitudes and social norms
- Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's participation in leadership and decision making
- Challenge gender stereotypes, and the impacts of colonisation on men's and women's roles, relationships and identities
- Strengthen positive, equal and respectful relationships between women and men, girls and boys
- Engage both indigenous and non-indigenous men to challenge harmful and violence-supportive ideas about masculinity and relationships



## Principles for prevention in practice

**All the principles for prevention outlined in *Change the story* apply:** e.g:

- Working at multiple levels, to transform social norms, structures and practices for a more equal society
- Designing initiatives to suit each setting, audience, geographic and demographic context
- Using 'intersectional' approaches, rather than focussing on gender inequality in isolation
- Building partnerships for prevention, between diverse organisations and communities
- Challenging harmful ideas of masculinity, and positively engaging men and boys, while empowering women and girls
- Working across the life cycle

# Additional principles for preventing violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women

- Self-determination, community control and leadership
- Cultural safety
- Trauma-informed practice and practitioner self-care
- Healing focused
- Prioritising and strengthening culture
- Holistic:
  - Understanding intersecting issues in people's lives, rather than narrowly focused on violence
  - Engaging whole communities, rather than women in isolation. Women and men, children and young people. Mutual goal of healing, breaking cycles of violence and creating safer, nurturing communities for all
  - Work across whole Australian community
- Non-Indigenous organisations working as allies in culturally safe ways

# Putting Prevention into Practice

- What is required to ensure this document is put into practice and not just another piece of policy work that sits on the shelf?
- What is the role of the sector, government, community and individuals in implementing this work?
- Where do you see yourselves/ your organisation when it comes to engaging in this work?
- What needs to happen in your community, locally and at a state level to prevent violence in your communities?



# Implications for different stakeholders: key messages from the action framework

- Much prevention work must be owned and led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people themselves
- But because drivers are deep across society, and because it is perpetrated by men of all backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must not be expected to bear full responsibility for preventing this violence.
- We *all* have a role to play – Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, communities, organisations, and governments at all levels
- Significant work for non-Indigenous people and organisations, to address racism and structural inequalities, the intersections of sexism and racism, and social norms and attitudes condoning violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Policy and practice solutions must go hand in hand



# Survey and Feedback



# Thank you

[www.ourwatch.org.au](http://www.ourwatch.org.au)



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