

Time to align – primary prevention, women's health & violence against women

Dr Melanie Heenan: Preventing Violence Against Women Program

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth), Australia

Young women

Women with disabilities

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women

Refugee women

Culturally and linguistically diverse women

Tertiary response:

Systems that respond to violence against women after it has occurred (e.g. crisis centres, police response, criminal justice responses)

1 in 3 experience intimate partner violence after age of 15

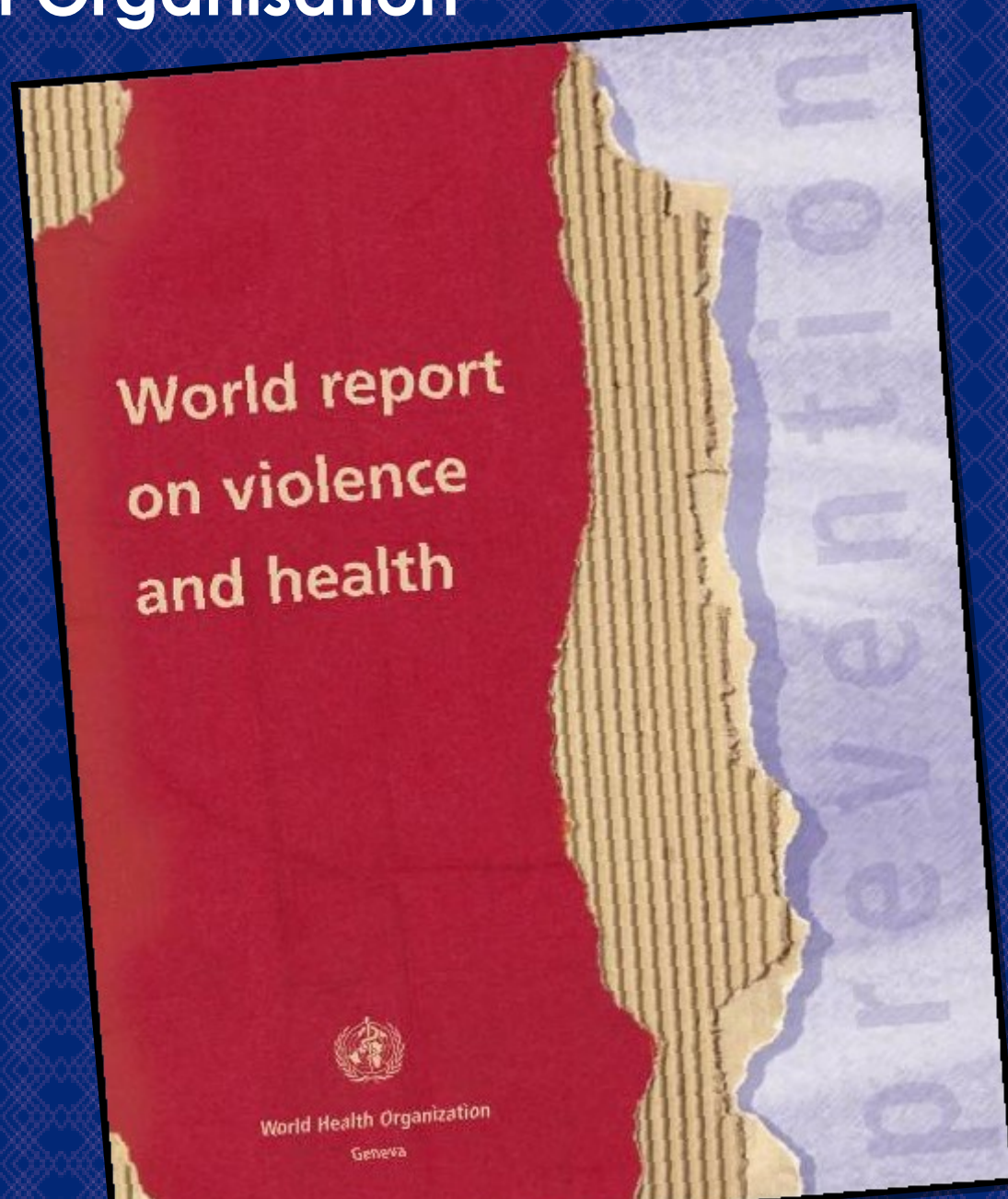
45% of homicides are women killed by male partners

1 in 5 experience sexual violence after age of 15

Intimate partner violence – greatest contributor to women’s poor health (aged 15-44)

Economic cost approx \$13 billion dollars (AUD)

World Health Organisation



Violence at home: hidden toll revealed

Deborah Gough
Social Affairs Reporter

Domestic violence is the single greatest risk factor associated with death, disease and disability for younger Victorian women, a new study has revealed.

In an international first, the State Government will today release statistics that directly link domestic violence to suicide, depression, anxiety, alcohol, tobacco and drug use, sexually transmitted disease, cervical cancer, physical injuries and eating disorders.

The study found that in 2000-01, intimate partner violence contributed to 9 per cent of ill-health, disability and premature death among Victorian women aged 15 to 44.

In the same age group, 10 per cent of deaths were blamed on domestic violence — either through suicide or violent death.

The study, conducted by VicHealth, uses the internationally recognised "burden of disease" approach to estimate impacts of health problems across the population. It takes into account illness, disability and premature death.

The figures show that domestic violence is responsible for more ill-health and premature death in this age group than any other single risk factor, including high blood pressure, obesity or smoking.

VictHealth chief executive Rob Moodie had initially sought the figures to tackle mental health issues, but found the consequences of domestic violence to be much wider. He described the figures as shocking.

"To date, domestic violence and intimate partner violence have really been dealt with by domestic violence services, police and the courts," Dr Moodie said.

"Probably the rest of us have probably lamented its existence, but asked what can we really do about it from our point of view. What this tells us is we need a much broader public health response."

Dr Moodie said it showed that general practitioners, public hospitals, mental health experts and others in the health community should consider domestic violence as a possible cause of poor health.

He said the importance of prevention was the most important message from the report, which could be looked at with bullying in schools and the workplace.

He said the way children and adults interacted particularly needed more work. "It seems to be much more important in mental health than we ever thought, and it is not a quick fix. These are important calcu-

lations, but it is quite hard to accept that a lot of this is how we treat each other," Dr Moodie said.

In the year covered by the study, police attended 21,618 reported domestic violence incidents in Victoria. Children were present at 19,933 of the reported incidents.

The Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service Victoria's director, Rhonda Cumberland, said she was surprised by the revelations about the impact of domestic violence on women's health.

She said she was pleased that VicHealth was recommending health professionals be involved, "except where there is an immediate sexual assault crisis, there are not any established pathways for women who have been victims of domestic violence from the police and justice system to the health sector," Dr Cumberland said.

Danny Blay, the manager of No To Violence, a body representing men's violence counselling services, said 3500 men sought counselling last year in Victoria and up to 400 were seeking counselling at any given time. He said it was not a quick process, but violent men can achieve behaviour

Health Burden of Intimate Partner Violence

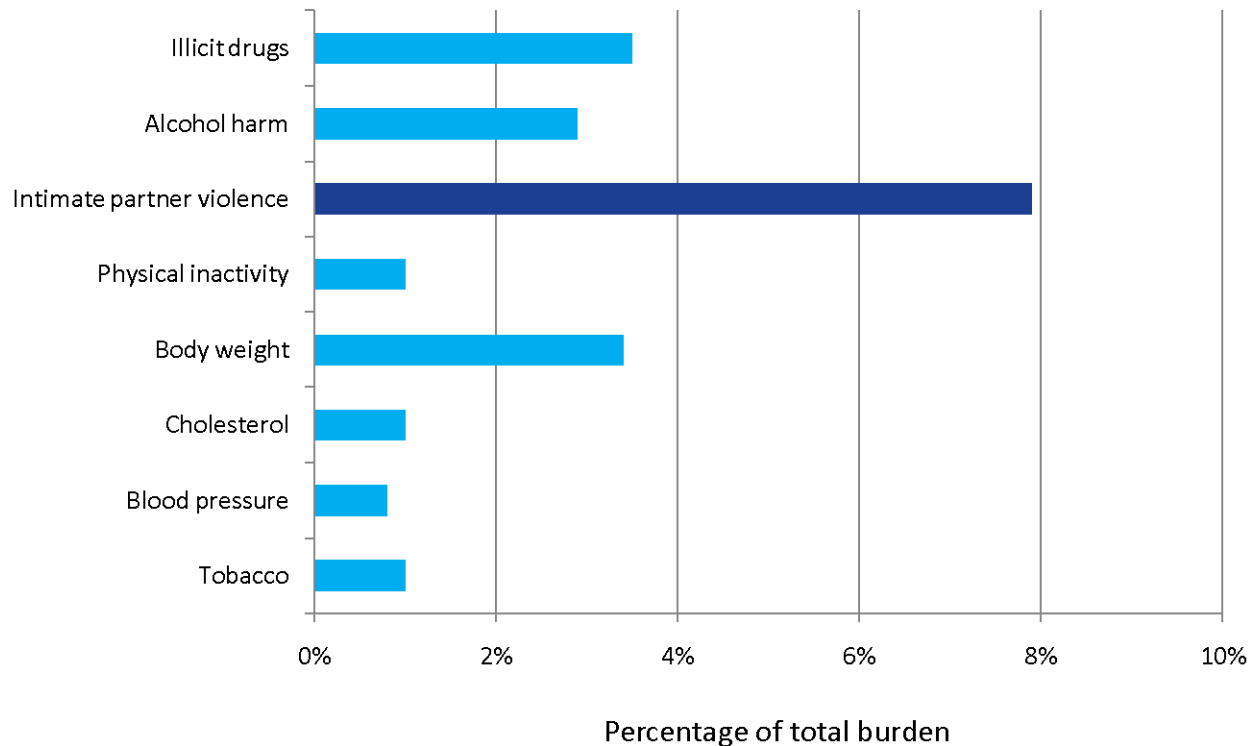


Compared with other risk factors, intimate partner violence is the top ranking cause of preventable disease and premature death among women aged 15-44

Intimate partner violence

Compared with other risk factors:

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



Outcome 1:
Safe communities



Outcome 2:
Respectful relationships



Outcome 3:
Services meet needs



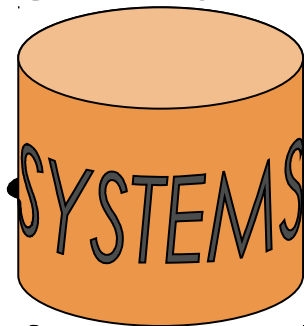
Outcome 4:
Just responses



Outcome 5:
Perpetrators stop violence



Outcome 6:
Integrated systems



Time for Action!



Preventing violence against women: A framework for action

Theme for action: promoting equal and respectful relationships between men and women

Individual and relationship	Community and organisational	Societal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belief in rigid gender roles and identities and/or weak support for gender equality • Masculine orientation or sense of entitlement • Male dominance and control of wealth in relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culturally-specific norms regarding gender and sexuality • Masculine peer and organisational cultures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional and cultural support for, or weak sanctions against, gender inequality and rigid gender roles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relative labour force status • Alcohol and illicit drug use* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood characteristics (e.g. service infrastructure, unemployment, poverty, collective efficacy) 	

Theme for action: promoting non-violent norms and reducing the effects of prior exposure to violence

Individual and relationship	Community and organisational	Societal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attitudinal support for violence against women • Witnessing or experiencing family violence as a child • Exposure to other forms of interpersonal or collective violence • Use and acceptance of violence as a means of resolving interpersonal disputes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood, peer and organisational cultures that are violence-supportive or have weak sanctions against violence • Community or peer violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of, or weak sanctions against, violence and/or violence against women • Ethos condoning violence as a means of settling interpersonal, civic or political disputes • Colonisation



*We need to design approaches
that will promote equal and
respectful relationships between
men and women*

Develop strategies that promote non-violent social norms



*...and that reduce
the effects of prior
exposure to
violence.*





*We need to
improve access
to resources and
systems of
support*



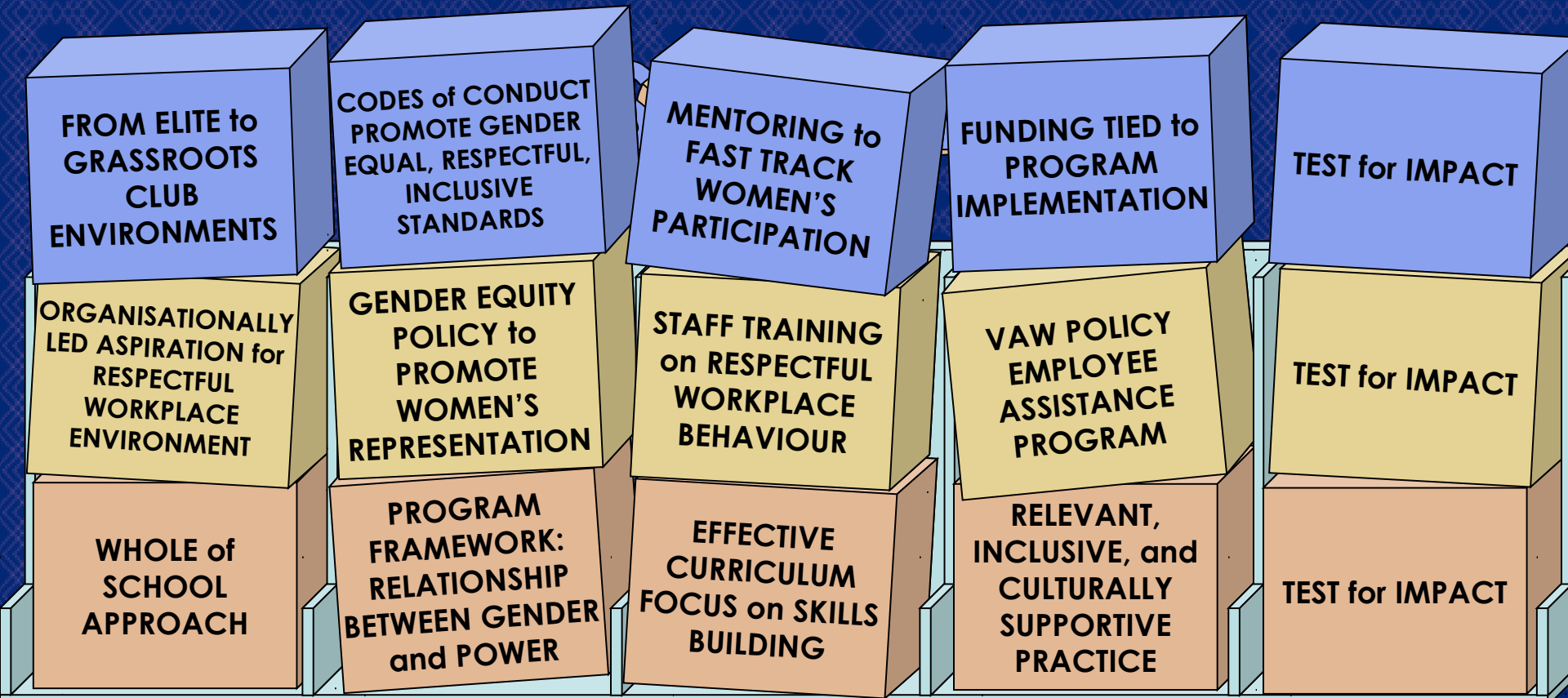
Working with young people to influence the next generation



Schools



Complementary and Mutually Reinforcing Strategies



vision ZERO ZERO Fatalities
ZERO Injuries
ZERO Major Vehicle Accidents
ZERO Net Environmental Emissions
ZERO Tolerance of Unsafe Behaviour and Practices

Become a Linfox Community Safety Role Model.

Take the Initiative and stand up for community safety.

Come along to an information session and complimentary lunch to learn more about standing up against harm that makes our homes and communities unsafe.




Local Government



Schools



Workplaces

Settings for Action to Stop Violence Against Women Before it Starts

stand UP

Domestic
Violence is
Everyone's
Business



“We will develop and launch a national plan of action to progress pay equity in the short, medium and longer term for our nation’s women”.



“This strategy will align with other critical national priority platforms including COAG’s plan to reduce violence against women based on the former National Council’s ‘Time for Action’ report.”



Prevention in the stock exchange



ASX

AUSTRALIAN STOCK EXCHANGE



ASX

AUSTRALIAN SECURITIES EXCHANGE

MEDIA RELEASE

7 December 2008

New ASX Corporate Governance Council Recommendations on Diversity

The ASX Corporate Governance Council (Council) proposes to expand the Corporate Governance Principles to require each entity listed on the Australian Securities Exchange - on an "if not, why not?" basis - to disclose a diversity policy that includes measurable objectives relating to gender.

Contained in a communiqué about recent work activity released by the Council today.

Under the new diversity policy, listed entities will be required, on an "if not, why not?" basis, to disclose in their annual reports:

- the number of women employees in the whole organisation, in senior management and on the board;
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**Veronica Wensing
Executive Officer
Canberra Rape Crisis Centre**

Union seeks extra leave for victims of domestic violence

Ewin Hannan | *The Australian*

IN an Australian first, a union will seek to have a clause included in a workplace agreement that gives victims of domestic violence an extra 20 days' paid leave a year.

The Community and Public Sector Union is serving the claim on the University of NSW, arguing that employers need to be more involved in the campaign against domestic violence.

Steve Turner, assistant secretary of the union's NSW branch, said domestic violence should not be an issue confined to the home.

He said research showed paid employment was a key pathway to leaving a violent relationship, "but too often women find themselves fired or having to resign because of the impact domestic violence has on their work".

The claim calls for records relating to domestic violence to be kept confidential, training for human resources staff, and an extra 20 days' leave a year for victims of domestic violence.

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry said employers would be happy to back the support measures

proposed by the union.

But David Gregory, the chamber's workplace policy director, questioned the need to provide a new leave entitlement.

"That would be something the parties would have to work through and it might be something that's achievable in a university environment like this one," he said. "Whether that's going to be something that could be legitimately considered by a small business in a very different environment is another issue."

Budget provides \$14m to shift attitudes on domestic violence

MELISSA FYFE
STATE POLITICS

THE state government will tackle domestic and sexual violence against women, setting aside an extra \$14 million in Tuesday's budget to fund a campaign aimed at shifting community attitudes.

The extra money will be

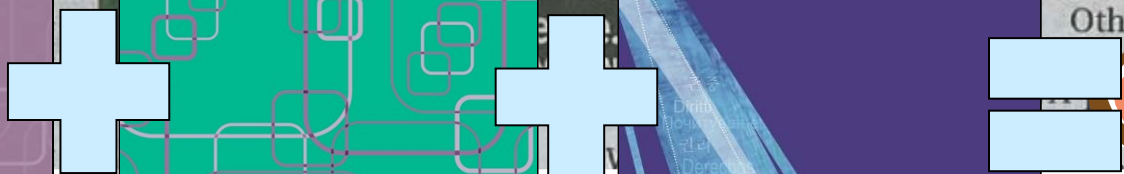
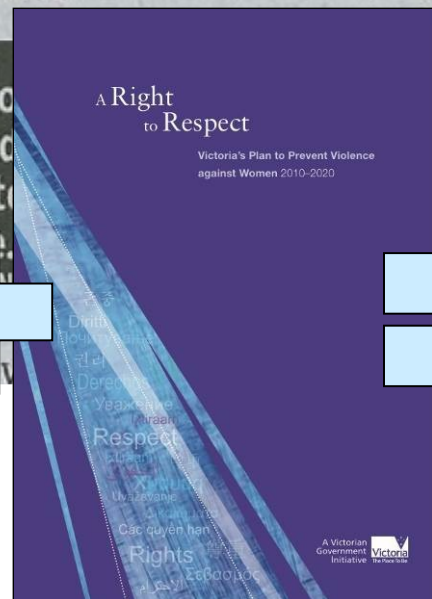
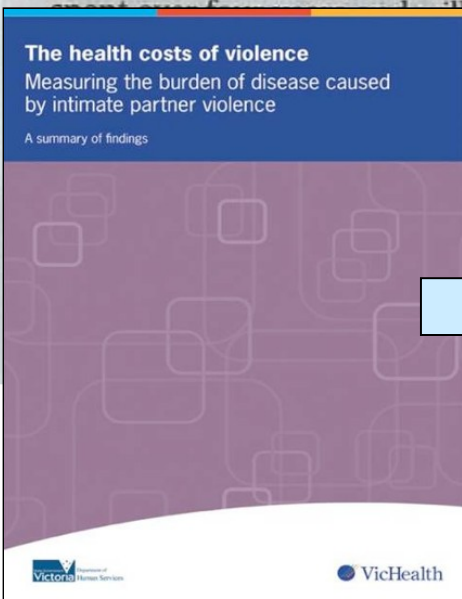
utors to some rising crime statistics. The government believed that some of the problems — such as the rising rates of family violence and youth aggression and knife crime — need to be tackled by the community as a whole, not just the police force alone.

The government's concern about youth crime was high-

extension of respectful relationships training, now being trialled in some Victorian schools. Work will be done with male-dominated sporting codes and clubs will be encouraged to build safe and inclusive environments for women along the lines of the Australian Football League's policies.

important step in stamping out this violence."

The budget will also allocate \$180,000 to get more women on boards — the government's target is 50 per cent. The money will promote the Victorian Women's Register, which is an online database of 2000 women who want to be members of a board, provide training for women to become "board ready", and work in partnership with key organisations to promote and encourage more women on boards. Other new funding in




Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing



DEVELOPING A
WOMEN'S HEALTH POLICY
FOR AUSTRALIA – SETTING THE SCENE


Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing



DEVELOPMENT OF A
**NEW NATIONAL
WOMEN'S HEALTH POLICY**
CONSULTATION DISCUSSION PAPER 2009


Australian Government
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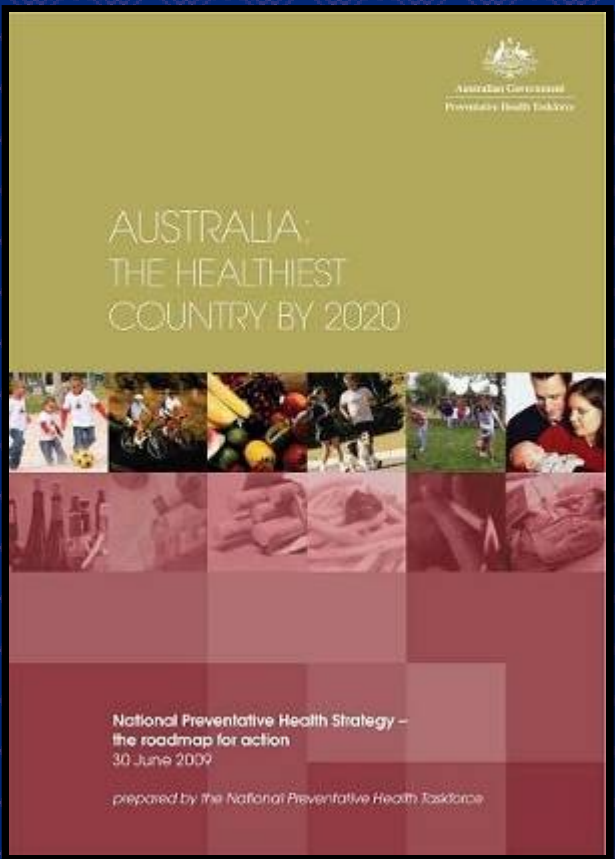
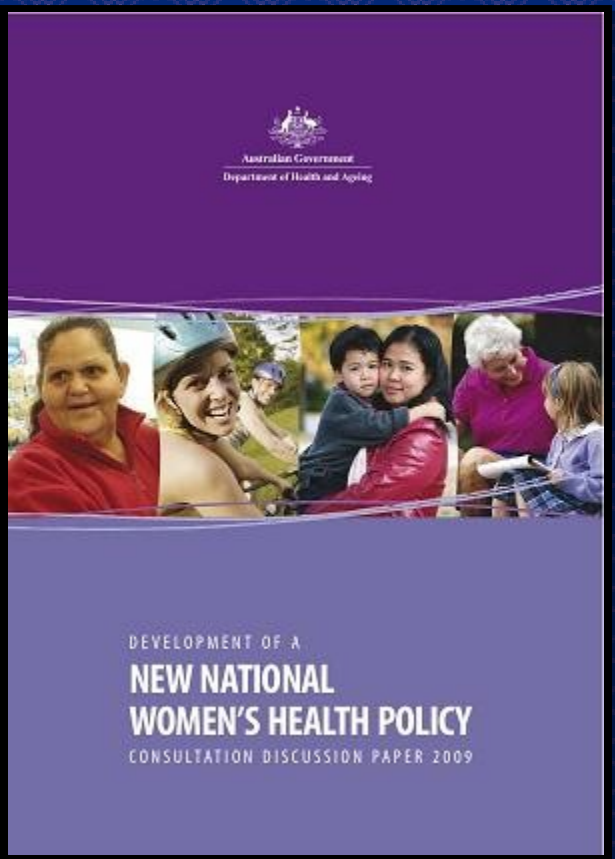
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Women's Health Policy - 2010



PASSING A BUILDING SITE FANTASY

Bet she's
intelligent



Wouldn't mind a
game of scrabble
with her

What a
mind



I'd give her the
Nobel Prize any day



horacek

Huge thanks to Judy Horacek and publishers
Jenny Darling and Associates for permission to
use this cartoon.