



# ONE IN THREE VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE IS MALE

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Media release - for immediate release - Friday August 31st 2012

## Male victims of family violence face gap in services and need special consideration: Government report

The NSW Government Legislative Council's *Standing Committee on Social Issues* this week released their [report](#) on domestic violence trends and issues in NSW: the first ever to acknowledge the existence, needs, barriers to reporting and barriers to accessing support faced by male victims of family violence. According to the [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#), more than 100,000 men in NSW have experienced violence from their partner.

Greg Andresen, Senior Researcher for the *One in Three Campaign* said, "This courageous report heralds a new era of gender equity by the NSW Government by finally acknowledging the forgotten one-third of victims of family violence: men and boys."

The findings of the report include:

- "There was a broad recognition among inquiry participants that women offenders and male victims do exist" (p. 218). "Of [reported] victims of domestic assault in 2010, 69.2% were female, while 30.8% were male." (p.28)
- "Male victims have been much less visible and able to access supports than should be the case" (p.xxiv)
- "The experience of [males]... is equally as bad as that of other victims" (p.xxxii)
- Recognising "the gap in services for male victims and [encouraging] the government to examine how services can most appropriately be provided to male victims of domestic violence" (p.xxxii)
- Identifying males as "in need of special consideration with regard to domestic violence," along with Aboriginal people, older people, people with disability, and several other population groups (p.89)

Mr Andresen said, "We are especially pleased the Committee has recommended that the entire system for preventing and responding to family violence needs to take account of, and be effective for, *all* victims and perpetrators: not just women and children victims and male perpetrators as has been the case up until now."

"The Committee has also advised the Government that legislation and policy should be written in gender neutral terms – something we have been advocating for some time. They have also strongly recommended that male victims and female perpetrators be addressed in the Government's forthcoming *Domestic and Family Violence Framework*."

"Until now, the Government's entire specific support for male victims and their children has been a [single page](#) on their domestic violence website. Men have been unable to access the Government's *Start Safely* and *Staying Home Leaving Violence* programs. They have been denied access to safe rooms and legal assistance at court as well as emergency accommodation for themselves and their children. They have also been absent from the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and Children*."

"We look forward to seeing the Report's recommendations implemented by the NSW Government, and to working with them to ensure that each element of the criminal justice system, as well as the range of support services, is sensitive to the needs of all victims of family violence" said Mr Andresen.

The *One in Three Campaign* aims to raise public awareness of the existence and needs of male victims of family violence and abuse; to work with government and non-government services alike to provide assistance to male victims; and to reduce the incidence and impacts of family violence on Australian men, women and children.

### MEDIA CONTACTS

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