

# The Cost of Domestic Violence to the Australian Economy: Part II



An Australian Government Initiative



Women 04



## Consultants

Access Economics Pty Ltd



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This volume is Part II of the report by Access Economics of a study of the costs of domestic violence to the Australian economy. It contains supporting material and analysis.

The main report of the study is contained in a separate volume (Part I)



# 1. Project Terms of Reference

## Project Objective and Outcomes

The objective of this project is to undertake an accurate and comprehensive estimation of the costs of domestic violence to the Australian economy. The achievement of this objective will assist in raising awareness in the community of the costs of domestic violence, and will assist policy makers in determining allocation of resources across areas of governmental intervention to address this issue.

The work will achieve the following outcomes (so far as the available data permit):

1. An estimation of the costs of domestic violence per year. This would include an analysis of annual costs arising from violent behaviour in the lives of:
  - people subjected to domestic violence;
  - people using domestic violence; and
  - children who live with domestic violence.
2. Building on the work of the first estimation, an estimation of the whole of life cycle costs of domestic violence. This will be apportioned in three ways:
  - for each affected person's life;
  - broken down to an average rate per year per woman, child, man and family unit affected; and
  - a total whole of life cycle figure for all affected persons and the economy as a whole.

Both estimations should include costs affecting:

- all levels of government (i.e. through transfers), business, and community services;
- individuals affected by violence, either as users of violence, persons subjected to violence, or witnesses of violence, and the family unit as a whole;
- areas of intervention (eg. criminal justice and family law, health, education, family and community services, and accommodation); and
- the economies of States and Territories.

The work will also identify areas where efforts to improve the data might be focussed.

## Project Deliverables

The project will have the following deliverables:

### Stage 1

- A report of Stage 1 including detailed proposed methodology and a consultation strategy, for approval by OSW and production and use by the consultant in the consultations as appropriate.

### Stage 2

- A brief interim report, summarising the key outcomes from the consultation process and amendments to the methodology described above, for provision to OSW and acceptance by OSW; and
- A final report, for approval by OSW, which will document the achievement of the project objective and outcomes and provide:
  - an executive summary of the project;
  - detail on the methodologies assessed;
  - outcomes from the consultation process as relevant;
  - detail on the methodology, analysis and conclusion(s) reached for the first estimate; and
  - detail on the methodology, analysis and conclusion(s) reached for the second estimate.

NB. Each description of the estimates should hold sufficient detail to be capable of being published alone.





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### 3. Schema

Table 1: Schema of Costs

CONCEPTUAL GROUP	VICTIM (M)	PERPETRATOR (P)	CHILDREN (C)	FRIENDS/FAMILY (F)	EMPLOYER (E)	GOVERNMENT/SOCIETY (S)
Pain/Suffering and Premature Mortality Costs	Pain/Suffering and Premature Mortality	Pain/Suffering and Premature Mortality	Pain/Suffering and Premature Mortality	None	None	None
Health Costs	Private Health Costs	Private Health Costs	None	None	None	Public Health Costs
Production Related Costs	Lost paid work Lost wages from homicide and premature death Lost unpaid work Lost future wages	Lost paid work Lost unpaid work	None	None	Lost profit Search, hiring replacement and retraining Lost management productivity	Lost unpaid community work Lost wages from homicide and premature death
Consumption Costs	Loss of Economies of Scale Property replacement	Loss of Economies of Scale	Loss of Economies of Scale	None	None	Loss of Economies of Scale
Second Generation Costs	Legal/Forensic Childcare Changing school	Legal/Forensic None	Future crime	None	None	Legal/Forensic Child Protection Services Remedial/Special Education
Administrative Other Costs	Legal/Forensic Temporary Accommodation	Legal/Forensic Temporary Accommodation	None	Funeral	None	Legal/Forensic Temporary Accommodation Counselling Perpetrator Programs Paid care Interpreter Deadweight Loss
Transfer costs	(+) Victim Compensation (+) Income support (+) Financial help	None	None	(-) Financial help	None	(-) Victim Compensation (-) Income support



## 4. Estimating The Prevalence of Domestic Violence

The main volume (Part I) describes the estimation of prevalence of domestic violence (DV) against women, based on the ABS Women's Safety Survey (1996) (WSS). This volume describes the extension to estimate prevalence of violence against men and same sex partners, and the number of perpetrators and children witnessing DV.

### 4.1 Domestic Violence Against Men and Same-Sex Partners

While questions in the WSS, regarding emotional violence by a current partner were not male or female specific (and thus included women whose current partner was a female), in general it was not possible to count women who were abused by a female current or previous partner because they were considered to be a "friend" or "other known woman". Furthermore the WSS provides no information with regards to domestic violence against men from either a female or male current or previous partner.

The US National Violence Against Women Survey (US NVAWS), conducted from November 1995 to May 1996 and interviewed approximately 8,000 women and 8,000 men over the age of 18, found that 1.1% of women had a history of cohabitation with a same-sex intimate partner, of which 11.4% experienced some form of domestic violence from a female perpetrator (30.4% had experienced some form of domestic violence

from a male perpetrator).<sup>1</sup> In comparison, of the women with a history of cohabitation with opposite-sex intimate partners only 21.7% had experienced some form of domestic violence from a male perpetrator. This information can be used to scale up the estimated rates of prevalence of intimate partner violence found in the WSS (assuming a flat 1.1% rate of cohabitation with a same-sex intimate partner across all age groups and similar prevalence rates of experiencing violence, by age group, compared to male partner violence).

The US NVAWS also found that 7.9% of men experienced some form of domestic violence in their lifetime and 1.1% of men experienced some form of domestic violence in the past 12 months.<sup>2</sup> However violence against women often results in more injury than violence against men and nearly 75% of women's violence against men is self-defence (Straus and Gelles 1990) which means that it may not have the same psychological impact as men's violence against women would have. Furthermore violence against women is more likely to result in severe injury than violence against men (WHO 2002, p 94) and (Chung and Bagshaw 2000)).

By applying a discount rate of 75% to ensure a conservative estimate, the rate of prevalence of violence against men can be used to scale up the estimated rates of prevalence of domestic violence found in the WSS to obtain a total number of victims of domestic violence in Australia.

Table 2: Experience of Domestic Violence in 2002–03

	ABS	US NVAWS		EXTRAPOLATED ABS	
	WOMEN	WOMEN	MEN	WOMEN	MEN
Physical Assault	2.5%	1.3%	0.9%	2.5%	0.4%
Sexual Assault	0.4%	0.2%	–	0.4%	–
Sexual Threat	0.5%	–	–	0.5%	–
Stalking	0.1%	0.5%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%
Emotional Abuse	2.6%	–	–	2.6%	0.4%
<b>% of Population</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
<b>% of All Violence</b>	<b>47.2%</b>	<b>60.0%</b>	<b>28.2%</b>		

Note: Sum of types of abuse may not add up to total due to some women experiencing more than one type of abuse

Sources: ABS 4128.0 Women's Safety Survey Confidentialised Unit Record File

Tjaden and Thoennes (November 2000) p. 26

Tjaden and Thoennes (July 2000) p. 29-31

<sup>1</sup> The definition of intimate partner perpetrators also includes boyfriends/girlfriends and dates to the spouse/cohabitating partner definition used by the ABS. The definition of violence includes physical assault, sexual assault and stalking (Tjaden and Thoennes July 2000 p. 29–31).

<sup>2</sup> Includes same-sex partners. All incidents in the past 12 months were examined in detail rather than just the last incident (Tjaden and Thoennes November 2000 p. 26).

Table 3: Experience Of Domestic Violence Since The Age of 15

	ABS	US NVAWS		EXTRAPOLATED ABS	
	WOMEN	WOMEN	MEN	WOMEN	MEN
Physical Assault	17.8%	22.1%	7.4%	17.9%	1.5%
Sexual Assault	3.6%	7.7%	0.3%	3.6%	0.0%
Sexual Threat	2.2%	–	–	2.2%	–
Stalking	1.1%	4.8%	0.6%	1.1%	0.0%
Emotional Abuse	5.5%	–	–	5.5%	0.4%
<b>% of Population</b>	<b>21.4%</b>	<b>25.5%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>21.5%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
<b>% of All Violence</b>	<b>50.0%</b>	<b>45.6%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>		

Note: Sum of types of abuse may not add up to total due to some women experiencing more than one type of abuse

Source: ABS 4128.0 Women's Safety Survey Confidentialised Unit Record File

Tjaden and Thoennes (November 2000) p. 26

Tjaden and Thoennes (July 2000) p. 29–31

Finally, by assuming the same age distribution of violence for men as for women we can estimate the total number of victims of domestic violence in 2002–03 and since the age of 15.

Table 4: People Who Experienced Domestic Violence Victims in 2002–03

	18 TO 24	25 TO 29	30 TO 34	35 TO 44	45 TO 54	55 TO 59	60 AND OVER	TOTAL
Physical Assault	56,600	36,600	34,100	48,700	28,200	1,300	17,800	223,200
Sexual Assault	3,600	2,600	4,200	12,000	2,300	3,400	–	28,200
Sexual Threat	1,600	4,100	6,900	15,300	11,000	–	1,600	40,500
Stalking	900	900	–	2,200	2,000	–	–	5,900
Emotional Abuse	19,700	29,700	31,800	72,300	42,900	13,000	19,900	229,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,500</b>	<b>56,100</b>	<b>57,200</b>	<b>123,600</b>	<b>66,000</b>	<b>16,700</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>408,100</b>
Women	53,600	48,900	49,800	107,700	57,500	14,500	23,500	355,600
Men	7,900	7,200	7,400	15,900	8,500	2,100	3,500	52,500
<b>% of Population</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>3%</b>

Note: Sum of types of abuse may not add up to total due to some women experiencing more than one type of abuse

**Table 5: People Who Have Experienced Domestic Violence Since The Age of 15**

	18 TO 24	25 TO 29	30 TO 34	35 TO 44	45 TO 54	55 TO 59	60 AND OVER	TOTAL
Physical Assault	132,100	147,200	176,700	373,900	328,300	121,000	208,200	1,487,400
Sexual Assault	16,800	22,100	34,700	73,500	69,500	32,900	32,200	281,700
Sexual Threat	6,500	24,600	27,700	52,000	32,900	22,600	3,300	169,700
Stalking	1,600	8,800	3,600	19,100	25,900	7,100	17,900	83,900
Emotional Abuse	22,600	42,100	52,500	134,400	117,200	30,300	56,900	455,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>142,200</b>	<b>174,200</b>	<b>213,400</b>	<b>454,900</b>	<b>410,000</b>	<b>143,300</b>	<b>230,900</b>	<b>1,768,800</b>
Women	248,800	227,200	231,500	500,100	267,100	67,600	109,300	1,651,500
Men	17,700	16,100	16,400	35,500	19,000	4,800	7,800	117,300
<b>% of Population</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>12%</b>

Note: Sum of types of abuse may not add up to total due to some women experiencing more than one type of abuse

## 4.2 Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

An estimate of the proportion of perpetrators who are male and female is based on the proportion of victims who are

male and female in Section 4.1 and US NVAWS data on the rate of same-sex relationships and opposite-sex only relationships and the rates of domestic violence by sex of the perpetrator (see Table 6).<sup>3</sup>

**Table 6: Domestic Violence Perpetrators, by Sex**

	WOMEN PERPETRATORS	MALE PERPETRATORS	% OF VICTIMS
Women Victims	1%	99%	87%
Male Victims	98%	2%	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.96%</b>	<b>98.04%</b>	

Tjaden and Thoennes (July 2000) p. 29–31

An estimate of the number of perpetrators in 2002–03 is made by assuming that there is one perpetrator per victim if domestic violence was experienced in the past 12 months, and that the distribution of perpetrator's ages is the same as the distribution of victim's ages.

<sup>3</sup> Note that violence against male victims is discounted by 75% to take into account a lower injury rate and psychological impact.

Table 7: Number Of Domestic Violence Perpetrators, by Sex in 2002–03

	18 TO 24	25 TO 29	30 TO 34	35 TO 44	45 TO 54	55 TO 59	60 AND OVER	TOTAL
<b>Women</b>	1,200	1,100	1,100	2,400	1,300	300	500	8,000
% of Population	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
<b>Men</b>	60,300	55,000	56,100	121,100	64,700	16,400	26,500	400,100
% of Population	6.1%	8.1%	7.5%	8.1%	4.8%	2.8%	1.7%	5.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,500</b>	<b>56,100</b>	<b>57,200</b>	<b>123,600</b>	<b>66,000</b>	<b>16,700</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>408,100</b>
% of Population	3.2%	4.1%	3.8%	4.1%	2.4%	1.4%	0.8%	2.7%

### 4.3 Children Witnessing Domestic Violence

The WSS also examined the issue of whether children were living with the woman during a violent relationship and whether children witnessed the domestic violence.<sup>4</sup> Of women who experienced domestic violence by a current or previous partner 66% had children in their care at the time and 42% of women had children who had witnessed the domestic violence.<sup>5</sup>

Of women who experienced domestic violence in the past 12 months 50% had children in their care.<sup>6</sup> By assuming that

the same ratio between children being in the woman's care and witnessing domestic violence applies to women experiencing domestic violence in the past 12 months, 36% of women had children who had witnessed the domestic violence in the past 12 months.

Assuming that each victim had 1.32 children in their care,<sup>7</sup> these rates can be used to estimate the number of children who witnessed domestic violence.

Table 8: Children Living With And Witnessing Domestic Violence in 2002–03

	18 TO 24	25 TO 29	30 TO 34	35 TO 44	45 TO 54	55 TO 59	60 AND OVER	TOTAL
Children Living With Domestic Violence	24,300	56,800	53,600	115,400	13,600	–	–	263,800
	30%	77%	71%	71%	16%	0%	0%	50%
Children Who Witnessed Domestic Violence	14,000	43,900	34,900	78,800	9,600	–	–	181,200
	17%	59%	46%	48%	11%	0%	0%	36%
<b>% of Population Under 18</b>								<b>5%</b>

This estimate is within the range estimated by Keatsdale (2003)—between 3.2% and 15.5% of children have witnessed domestic violence.

<sup>4</sup> As these estimates were based on current and previous partners, they include same sex couples.

<sup>5</sup> While this rate includes women who were not sure whether children witnessed the domestic violence, the rate of children who witnessed domestic violence may still be an underestimation as the woman may not be aware that the child had witnessed the domestic violence.

<sup>6</sup> Does not include same-sex couples.

<sup>7</sup> Based on the number of children aged under 15 years per couple family with children from the 2001 Census.



## 5. Temporary Absenteeism

### 5.1 Victim Absenteeism From Paid Work

In this section the rate of employment and AWE of victims of DV is based on ABS 6310.0. The on costs of employment (applied to the paid leave incurred by the employer) are estimated to be 15.5% of employee earnings (ABS 6348.0.55.001).

#### 5.1.1 Victim Absenteeism From Paid Work Due to Injury, Emotional Distress or Attending Court

The WSS examined whether female victims took time off paid work due to injury, emotional distress or attending court as a result of the last incident of DV in the form of physical assault, sexual assault or stalking (see Table 9).<sup>8</sup> Supplementing this

information, the US NVAWS collected data on the number of DV incidents in the past 12 months and the average number of days off paid work by DV victims (see Table 10). As the proportion of women who took time off work in the 12 months after the last incident in the US NVAWS (17.5% of physical assault victims, 21.5% of sexual assault and 35.5% of stalking victims) was very similar to that in the WSS (see Table 9) the average number of days off paid work due to DV in the US NVAWS is assumed to be similar to the impacts on absenteeism due to DV in Australia (NCIPC 2003 p. 25).

**Table 9: Employed Female DV Victims Who Took Time Off Paid Work**

	TIME OFF WORK	NO TIME OFF WORK
Physical Assault	21%	79%
Sexual Assault	18%	82%
Stalking	33%	67%

Source: ABS 4128.0 Women's Safety Survey Confidentialised Unit Record File

Also the impact of DV on labour force participation and performance is also strongly dependent on the severity of the DV (although this does not mean that all victims will react in the same manner to the violence). For example,

- The Physical Violence in American Families (PVAF) in 1985 found that 65% victims of severe abuse (measured by the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS) as kicked, punched, bit, hit, beat up, choked, threatened to use or used a weapon)

reported that their job performance suffered due to the violence compared to 25% of victims of minor abuse (measured by the CTS as threw something at, pushed, grabbed, or shoved).

- The WSS found that 17.9% of women who were physically abused and injured took time off work in the 12 months after the last incident compared to 5.5% of women who were physically abused but not injured.

**Table 10: Domestic Violence Incidents and Days Off Paid Work Per Incident**

	IPV INCIDENTS IN PAST 12 MONTHS		AVERAGE DAYS OFF PAID WORK
	WOMEN	MEN	WOMEN
Physical Assault	3.4	3.5	7.2
Sexual Assault	1.6	–	8.1
Stalking	1.0	1.0	10.1

Sources: NCIPC (2003) p. 21 and 26

Tjaden and Thoennes (November 2000) p. 26

<sup>8</sup> Note that time off as a result of sexual threat and emotional abuse was not surveyed. This would be an underestimation of time off from work as a result of domestic violence.

Assuming that male victims took time off work due to DV the same rate as female victims<sup>9</sup> and male victims take the same number of days off work, it is estimated that over 710,000 days are taken off paid work by victims of DV in 2002–03.

It is estimated that female victims are paid for 69.7% and male victims are paid for 75.9% (ABS 6342.0) of the days taken off

paid work and the employer incurs wages, on costs and an overtime premium relating to the paid days off work and the worker incurs the lost wages relating to the remaining unpaid days off work. The total cost of the victim taking temporary time off paid work due to injury, emotional distress or attending court is estimated to be \$131.9 million in 2002–03.

**Table 11: Cost of Victim Time Off Paid Work in 2002–03**

	PERSONS	TIME LOST FROM PAID WORK DAYS	VICTIM'S SHARE (\$M)	EMPLOYER'S SHARE (\$M)	TOTAL COST (\$M)
<b>Women</b>					
Physical Violence	191,200	552,300	19.1	76.0	95.1
Sexual Violence	28,200	38,000	1.4	5.5	6.9
Stalking	5,400	10,800	0.4	1.5	1.9
<b>Sub Total</b>	224,800	601,100	20.9	83.1	104.0
<b>Men</b>					
Physical Violence	32,000	109,000	4.4	23.2	27.6
Sexual Violence	–	–	–	–	–
Stalking	500	1,200	0.1	0.3	0.3
<b>Sub Total</b>	32,500	110,200	4.4	23.5	27.9
<b>Total</b>	257,200	711,200	25.3	106.6	131.9

### 5.1.2 Victim Absenteeism From Paid Work Due to Late to Work or Leaving Early

Temporary victim absenteeism from paid work may also occur due to the victim arriving late to work or leaving work early. Henderson (2000b) estimated that 35% of victims were late for work or left early for work for DV reasons, victims were late for work or left early for work 9 times per year and each time 38 minutes of work time was lost. Similar to Henderson (2000b) it is assumed that 50% of lost time would be made up by the worker at a later date. Furthermore it is assumed that the same pattern in arriving late to work or leaving work early also applies to male victims. While DV typically

decreases victim participation in the workforce, Lloyd (1997) found that some female DV victims increased participation depending on how they responded to the violence. However at this stage it was found that there is a lack of research that quantifies the extent of this impact and consequently this issue has not been taken into account.

It is assumed that employers incur all of the costs (no overtime is used and there is no retained wages). The total cost of the victim arriving late to work or leaving work early is estimated to be \$5.5 million in 2002–03.

<sup>9</sup> Note that the rate of male victims has already been discounted by 75% to take into account lower rates of injury and psychological impact.

TABLE 12: Cost Of Time Off Paid Work Due to Late To Work or Leaving Early in 2002–03

	PERSONS	TIME LOST FROM PAID WORK. HOURS	TOTAL COST (\$M)
<b>Women</b>			
Physical Violence	191,200	190,700	4.1
Sexual Violence	28,200	28,100	0.7
<b>Sub Total</b>	219,400	218,800	4.7
<b>Men</b>			
Physical Violence	32,000	31,900	0.8
Sexual Violence	–	–	–
<b>Sub Total</b>	32,000	31,900	0.8
<b>Total</b>	251,300	250,800	5.5

## 5.2 Perpetrator Absenteeism From Paid Work

While the WSS and the US NVAWS surveyed victims of DV and estimated the total time off work due to any DV related reason, time off from paid work by perpetrators must be estimated for each individual reason. Due to a lack of data the most obvious reasons, such as harassing the victim, criminal justice processes, incarceration, and attending family court, were costed separately whereas other less obvious reasons, such as due to injury, were not possible to cost at all.

In this section average weekly earnings and employment rates of perpetrators is based on the distribution of perpetrators in Appendix 4.2, the employment rate and AWE is based on ABS 6310.0 and on costs of employment are estimated to be 15.5% of employee earnings (ABS 6348.0.55.001).

### 5.2.1 Harassing Victim

Henderson (2000b) estimated that 20% of perpetrators harass or watch the victim at work and assumed that 1.5 days of perpetrator time is lost per year due to the perpetrator harassing the victim (less than 1 hour a month), and 50% is made up by the worker at a later date. It is also assumed that employers incur all these costs (no overtime is used and there is no retained wages). The total cost of the perpetrator taking time off paid work to harass the victim is estimated to be \$8.3 million in 2002–03.

Table 13: Time Lost from Paid Work Due to Harassing Victim

	PERSONS	TIME LOST FROM PAID WORK. DAYS	TOTAL COST (\$M)
<b>Women Perpetrators</b>	8,000	1,200	0.1
<b>Men Perpetrators</b>	400,100	60,000	8.2
<b>Total</b>	408,100	61,200	8.3

### 5.2.2 Criminal Justice Processes

Section 9.1.5 estimates the number of Apprehended Violence Orders that is DV related Australia-wide. Henderson (2000b) assumed that 50% of these cases result in the perpetrator attending court and that a half-day absence from work is required for each court appearance.

Section 9.1.2 also estimates the number of court attendances for murder, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, indecent assault, act of indecency and other sexual offences, abduction and kidnapping, and other offences against the person due to DV. Henderson (2000b) assumed that a one-day absence from work is required for each court appearance, comprising an estimated half-day for the actual court appearance and a half-day for any other associated criminal justice processes (eg. police statements, legal representation, etc).

Finally section 9.1.1 also estimates the number of days incarcerated due to DV.

It is assumed that the age/sex distribution of perpetrators that attend court or are incarcerated for DV reasons is similar to that in section 4.2. It is estimated that time off for court appearances (and any associated criminal justice processes) is paid leave for 69.7% of female perpetrators and 75.9% of male perpetrators (ABS 6342.0). The costs incurred by the employer also includes wages, overtime premium and on costs. The total cost of criminal justice processes is estimated to be \$82.6 million in 2002–03.

**Table 14: Cost Of Perpetrator Time Off Work From Criminal Justice Processes**

	PERSONS	TIME LOST FROM PAID WORK DAYS	PERPETRATOR'S SHARE (\$M)	EMPLOYER'S SHARE (\$M)	TOTAL COST (\$M)
ROs, DVOs, AVOs	56,300	14,100	0.4	2.5	2.9
Court Appearances	26,700	26,700	0.2	1.5	1.7
Incarceration		1,155,400	78.0	–	78.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>83,000</b>	<b>1,196,200</b>	<b>78.6</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>82.6</b>

### 5.2.3 FAMILY COURT

Section 9.1.5 estimates the number of family court orders that is DV related Australia-wide. It is assumed that a half-day absence from work is required for each court order. It is assumed that the age/sex distribution of perpetrators that receive a court order is similar to that in Section 4.2. It is estimated that time off for court appearances (and any

associated criminal justice processes) is paid leave for 69.7% of female perpetrators and 75.9% of male perpetrators (ABS 6342.0). The costs incurred by the employer also includes wages, overtime premium and on costs. The total cost of criminal justice processes is estimated to be \$0.5 million in 2002–03.

**Table 15: Cost of Time Off From Work Due to Attending Family Court**

	PERSONS	TIME LOST FROM PAID WORK DAYS	PERPETRATOR'S SHARE (\$M)	EMPLOYER'S SHARE (\$M)	TOTAL COST (\$M)
Family Court	5,300	2,600	0.1	0.5	0.5

### 5.3 Friends and Family Absenteeism From Paid Work

According to a survey of Northern Territory victims, 47% reported that families and friends took time off work to accompany them to court, hospital, or mind children (KPMG96). However no literature has been identified that quantifies the amount of time taken off or how many people were involved.

### 5.4 Victim Absenteeism From Unpaid Work

#### 5.4.1 Victim Unable To Perform Household Chores or Voluntary Work

The WSS surveyed whether the victim “changed” their approach to household chores,<sup>10</sup> voluntary work or social/recreational activities due to the last incident of DV—unfortunately this does not correspond with the victim reducing the amount of work done, they may have just changed their

approach to the work, such as the time of day during which the activity is done (see Table 16). On the other hand, the US NVAWS did survey whether the victim had taken time off from household chores and how much time was taken off (see Table 17). Given the similarity of rates between the US NVAWS and the WSS of victims who took time off paid work due to DV, the proportion of victims who took time off from unpaid work in the US NVAWS will also be assumed to apply to Australia. Furthermore, by applying the ratio of “changed” their approach to household chores from the WSS to “took time off” household chores in the US NVAWS to the proportion of victims who “changed” their approach to voluntary work, the proportion of victims also took time off from unpaid voluntary work due to DV is estimated. According to the ABS 4153.0, 128 minutes and 125 minutes per day are spent doing unpaid voluntary work by men and women who participate in unpaid voluntary work, respectively. It is assumed that the number of days that a victim’s unpaid work is affected is equal to the average number of days taken off paid work (see Table 18).

Table 16: Change in Activities In 12 Months After Last Incident of Domestic Violence

	HOUSEHOLD CHORES	VOLUNTARY	SOCIAL	NONE
Sexual Assault	18%	3%	22%	59%
Physical Assault	16%	2%	19%	58%
Stalking	37%	6%	50%	44%

Source: ABS 4128.0 Women's Safety Survey Confidentialised Unit Record File

Table 17: Time Off Household Chores

	% OF VICTIMS	DAYS LOST
Sexual Assault	13.5%	13.5
Physical Assault	10.3%	8.4
Stalking	17.5%	12.7

Source: NCIPC (2003) p. 25

Table 18: Time Off Voluntary Work

	% OF VICTIMS	HOURS LOST WOMEN	HOURS LOST MEN
Sexual Assault	2.1%	15.0	15.4
Physical Assault	1.4%	16.9	17.3
Stalking	3.0%	21.0	21.5

<sup>10</sup> Includes housework, shopping and childcare.

Traditional microeconomic theory (in particular the work of Gary Becker in the 1960s) tells us that people will work until they are indifferent between the marginal value of the income earned relative to the personal value of the leisure sacrificed. However, the human capital approach does not cope well with this, since no-one else tends to value the individual's leisure similarly. In an attempt to overcome these problems, some human capital approaches over the years have treated leisure time at a discounted proportion of earnings, although there is debate over what proportion should be used. Reasons why leisure time is valued as a proportion of earnings include tax reducing the effective income from work and restrictions on the amount of time that can be used for work (for both

biological and governmental regulation reasons). For the purposes of this study we have chosen to value leisure time at the lowest valuation of 30% of AWE.

Due to a lack of data about who exactly benefits from unpaid work it is assumed that all of the costs associated with lost time doing household chores is incurred by the victim (i.e. no one else benefits) and all of the costs associated with lost time doing voluntary work is incurred by society (i.e. the victim doesn't receive any utility from voluntary work). The total cost of time lost from unpaid work is estimated to be \$53.5 million.

**Table 19: Costs of Time Lost From Unpaid Work by Victim**

	TIME LOST FROM UNPAID WORK		VICTIM COST (\$M)	SOCIETY COST (\$M)
	HOUSEHOLD CHORES (DAYS)	VOLUNTARY WORK (HOURS)		
<b>Women</b>				
Physical Violence	1,184,800	204,800	40.1	1.1
Sexual Violence	39,000	10,600	1.4	0.1
Stalking	12,000	3,400	0.4	0.0
<b>Sub Total</b>	1,235,700	218,700	42.0	1.2
<b>Men</b>				
Physical Violence	203,900	36,100	10.0	0.2
Sexual Violence	–	–	–	–
Stalking	1,200	300	0.1	0.0
<b>Sub Total</b>	205,100	36,400	10.1	0.2
<b>Total</b>	1,440,800	255,200	52.1	1.5

It should be noted that due to DV related reasons (such as attending court or injury) perpetrator and friends/family may also be unable to perform unpaid household chores and voluntary work. However at this stage, due to a lack of quantified literature, this was not included.

#### **5.4.2 Perpetrator Unable To Perform Household Chores Or Voluntary Work Due To Attending Perpetrator Program**

The perpetrator may experience absenteeism from unpaid work while attending a perpetrator program. In section 9.2.2 it is estimated that 1,415 perpetrators attended perpetrator programs per week, assuming that each session lasts 2 hours and the value of leisure time is 30% of the AWE. Based on the AWE in ABS 6310.0 the total cost of reduced productivity due to attending a perpetrator program is estimated to be \$1.0 million in 2002–03.

Table 20: Lost Unpaid Work Due To Attending Perpetrator Program

	LOST TIME (HOURS)	VALUE OF LOST TIME (\$M)
Women Perpetrators	2,900	0.02
Men Perpetrators	144,300	0.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>147,100</b>	<b>0.99</b>





## 6. The ABS Women's Safety Survey (1996)

Past research on earnings profiles (cross-sectional approach)<sup>11</sup> has typically involved surveying a group of people and performing a regression analysis to determine the impact of sex, work experience (or age) and educational attainment (and sometimes union membership, tenure, marriage, number of children, partner's income and whether they lived in a capital city) on labour market participation and earnings. Then for an assumed set of attributes (such as sex and level of educational attainment) the earnings profile over time is calculated by adjusting the age of the worker.

However this assumes that the experiences of a 50 year old today will be the same as the experiences of a 20 year old today 30 years in the future (and vice versa)—given the increases in female participation and equalisation in wages this may not be an entirely robust assumption to make.

This approach can be also used to examine the impact of domestic violence on labour market participation and earnings. The theory behind why the number of children or unemployment has a sustained impact on the earning profile after they return to employment is that:

- They have not continued to increase their level of human capital (obtained through on-the-job experience); and
- Their level of human capital may have also decreased during the break (atrophy).

However the impact of a break from employment is likely to be strongly dependent on the length of the break. Consequently a break in employment due to domestic violence may only have a temporary impact on earnings as the length of break is typically smaller than a break to have children. On the other hand, on-going problems after domestic violence, such as mental health issues, may permanently decrease the victim's ability to continue to increase their level of human capital.

The effects of domestic violence on labour market participation and earnings was examined through data collected in the WSS via a cross-sectional analysis in a three stage process:

- The impact of domestic violence on whether the victim is employed;
- Given the victim is employed, the impact of domestic violence on hours worked or on the victim's full-time or part-time employment status; and
- Given the victim is employed full-time or part-time, the victims level of earnings.

Initially, using the WSS, we examined whether various factors influenced whether a respondent was a victim of physical domestic violence in the past 12 months. However as we are looking at the woman's circumstances after the physical domestic violence has occurred, these other factors are merely a proxy for the woman's probable circumstances just before the domestic violence.

It was found that a woman had less chance of becoming a victim

- the older she was,
- the more education she had, and
- if she was employed (0.9% less chance of being a victim).

These findings support the theory that the higher a woman's economic self-sufficiency (education and employment levels) the less likely they are to tolerate domestic violence.

Counteracting these findings, a woman's income had no significant impact on whether the woman was a victim and, while a woman's current partner's income had a significantly negative impact on whether the woman was a victim, a woman's income relative to their current partner's income had no significant impact on whether the woman was a victim. However these findings are probably strongly influenced by the fact that the survey question truncated earnings levels at such a low level of income that no real variation in the variable is possible (see Figure 1).

It was also found that whether the woman was living with a child under 15 years or not was just significantly positive at the 10% level, but not significant at the 5% level. However the overall impact on the probability of being a victim is low—for example if a woman had a child under 15 years then she has an 0.6% higher chance of being a victim.

On the other hand, looking at the victim's circumstances after the physical domestic violence, it was found that if the physical domestic violence occurred in the past 3 years then the victim had a 14% lower chance of being employed.<sup>12</sup> However after 3 years the impact becomes insignificant. However these results would be somewhat positively biased if women who were not employed had a higher chance of being a victim of physical domestic violence.<sup>13</sup>

When examining a woman's experience of any form of domestic violence (physical assault or threat, sexual assault or threat, stalking, or emotional abuse) in the past 12 months it was found that the older a woman the less chance they had of being a victim and if a woman was living with a child under 15 years she had a 3.3% higher chance of being a victim. However a woman's education, income level, current partner's income level and whether she was educated no longer significantly impacted on whether she experienced any form of domestic violence in the past 12 months.

<sup>11</sup> On the other hand, a panel data approach to examining the impact of breaks on earnings profiles involves looking at the same cohort of people over time (longitudinal survey) to see how their labour force participation and earnings changes due to domestic violence. Due to the ability to observe the victims' labour force participation and earnings before domestic violence occurs and then observe the ongoing effects during and after domestic violence, it is possible to separate out the cause and effects of domestic violence. Once again other factors that impact on labour force participation and earnings must also be taken into account.

<sup>12</sup> Over 60 year olds were excluded from this examination.

<sup>13</sup> This effect is somewhat supported by earlier findings that if a woman was currently employed she had a 0.9% less chance of being a victim of physical domestic violence in the past 12 months. This effect will be further examined through the AWLHS data

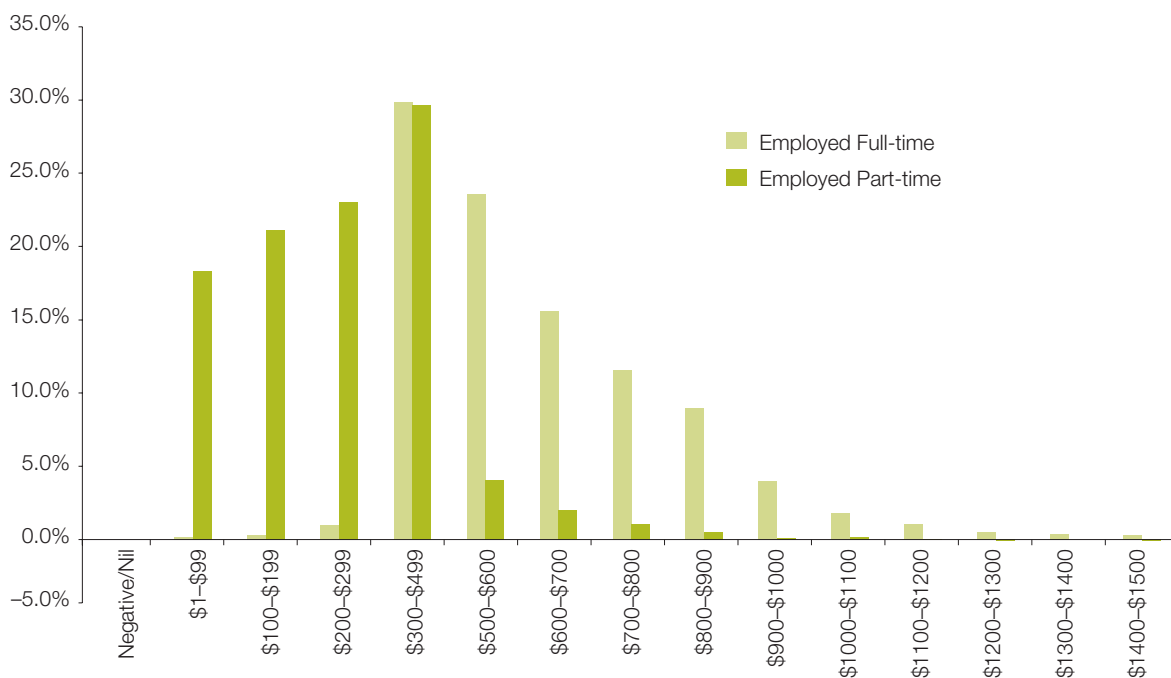
Similarly, looking at the victim’s circumstances after the physical domestic violence, it was found any form of domestic violence in the past 12 months had no impact on whether a victim was employed.

Given limitations in the data, whether the woman worked full-time or part-time acted as a proxy for determining the impact of domestic violence on the number of hours worked per week. It was not found that physical or general domestic violence had any significant impact on a woman’s choice to work full-time or part-time given that she had already chosen to be employed. The main reason why the data is not showing any impact may be that there is not enough variation in the data (i.e. not enough women are choosing to change employment status, rather they are choosing to reduce the number of hours worked within their employment status).

While the WSS surveyed the level of income a woman earns, it does not separately distinguish the level of income a woman earns from wages or salary from the level of income a woman earns from other sources of income, such as government benefits. Consequently, due to government income support the income variable does not have as much variation as it otherwise would have if just income from wages or salary were surveyed. Furthermore the income variable was truncated at a very low income group (\$500 per week)—55% of all respondents who were employed full-time earned \$500 per week or more and of the general 69% of women employed full-time earned \$500 per week or more (see Figure 1). Thus once again the income variable does not have as much variation as it otherwise would have.

These two factors combined means that it was not found that physical or general domestic violence had any significant impact on income earned (and thus productivity) per hour worked.

**Figure 1: AWE of Women in May 1996**



Further cross-sectional analysis using the ALSWH may provide some further insight into:

- Confirming the impact of domestic violence on employment,
- Examining the impact of domestic violence on hours worked, and
- Examining the impact of domestic violence on income earned per hour worked.

## 6.1 Variable Names and Descriptions

VARIABLE NAME	DESCRIPTION	MEAN	
		INCLUDING OVER 60 YEAR OLDS	EXCLUDING OVER 60 YEAR OLDS
Ageresp	Age of respondent (midpoints of age groups)	42.1387	37.5654
educ0	Still at secondary school	0.0030	0.0024
educ1	Did not go to secondary school	0.0335	0.0149
educ23	Went to secondary school but no post-school qualification	0.5331	0.5069
educ45	Basic or skilled vocational education	0.2032	0.2118
educ67	Associate or undergraduate diploma	0.0963	0.1091
educ8	Bachelor degree	0.0911	0.1073
educ9	Higher degree or postgraduate diploma	0.0398	0.0476
children	Children under 15 live in household	0.3436	0.4314
partner	Currently living with a partner	0.6662	0.7110
IPVPhy1Year	Experienced physical assault by a current or previous partner in the past 12 months	0.0272	0.0319
IPVPhy2Years	Experienced physical assault by a current or previous partner 1 to 2 years ago	0.0134	0.0167
IPVPhy3Years	Experienced physical assault by a current or previous partner 2 to 3 years ago	0.0141	0.0175
IPVPhy5Years	Experienced physical assault by a current or previous partner 3 to 5 years ago	0.0221	0.0270
IPVPhy10Years	Experienced physical assault by a current or previous partner 5 to 10 years ago	0.0390	0.0478
IPVPhy20Years	Experienced physical assault by a current or previous partner 10 to 20 years ago	0.0436	0.0500
IPVPhy20YearsPlus	Experienced physical assault by a current or previous partner 20 years ago or more	0.0328	0.0230
IPVPhy0to3Years	Experienced physical assault by a current or previous partner in the past 3 years	0.0546	0.0660
IPV1Year	Experienced any form of domestic violence in the past 12 months (physical, sexual assault, sexual threat, stalking, or emotional abuse by a current or previous partner)	0.0521	0.0619
Employed	Respondent employed full-time or part-time	0.5580	0.6809
FulltimeEmp	Respondent employed full-time	0.2997	0.3695
ParttimeEmp	Respondent employed part-time	0.2583	0.3114
Respincome	Income of respondent (midpoints of income groups)	273.7012	294.0599
Partincome	Income of partner (midpoints of income groups)	390.8548	419.7253
Wage	Main source of income is wage or salary	0.4589	0.5643
Govt	Main source of income is family payments or government benefits	0.3556	0.2590
SomeGovt	Receives some income from family payments or government benefits	0.5086	0.4351

## 6.2 Determinants of Violence

**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: IPVPhy1Year**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	-1.211	0.096	-12.557
ageresp	-0.020	0.003	-7.800
Log-likelihood	-766.11628		
Obs	6333		

**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: IPVPhy1Year**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	-0.552	0.340	-1.624
ageresp	-0.019	0.003	-7.346
educ1	-0.833	0.412	-2.022
educ23	-0.681	0.332	-2.052
educ45	-0.575	0.336	-1.712
educ67	-0.691	0.345	-2.003
educ8	-0.776	0.349	-2.223
educ9	-0.937	0.399	-2.347
Log-likelihood	-761.91625		
Obs	6333		

**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: IPVPhy1Year**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	-1.282	0.107	-11.982
ageresp	-0.019	0.003	-7.231
children	0.117	0.069	1.697
Log-likelihood	-764.68553		
Obs	6333		

**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: IPVPhy1Year**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	-1.174	0.117	-10.057
ageresp	-0.020	0.003	-7.880
respincome	0.000	0.000	-0.500
Log-likelihood	-765.96249		
Obs	6333		

**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: IPVPhy1Year**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	-1.040	0.116	-8.977
ageresp	-0.021	0.003	-8.231
employed	-0.180	0.070	-2.573
Log-likelihood	-762.81989		
Obs	6333		

**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: IPV1Year**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	-1.104	0.079	-13.956
ageresp	-0.014	0.002	-7.421
Log-likelihood	-1289.5563		
Obs	6333		

**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: IPV1Year**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	-0.735	0.333	-2.208
ageresp	-0.014	0.002	-6.950
educ1	-0.568	0.369	-1.537
educ23	-0.375	0.327	-1.146
educ45	-0.349	0.331	-1.054
educ67	-0.360	0.336	-1.073
educ8	-0.515	0.340	-1.518
educ9	-0.254	0.351	-0.724
Log-likelihood	-1286.6293		
Obs	6333		

**Method: Weighted Probit**  
**Dependent Variable: IPV1Year**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	-1.349	0.094	-14.377
ageresp	-0.011	0.002	-5.286
children	0.320	0.055	5.776
Log-likelihood	-1272.9683		
Obs	6333		

**Method: Weighted Probit**  
**Dependent Variable: IPV1Year**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	-1.166	0.096	-12.090
ageresp	-0.014	0.002	-6.900
respincome	0.000	0.000	1.000
Log-likelihood	-1288.9174		
Obs	6333		

**Method: Weighted Probit**  
**Dependent Variable: IPV1Year**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	-0.925	0.159	-5.830
ageresp	-0.015	0.003	-5.667
partincome	0.000	0.000	-0.500
Log-likelihood	-886.37845		
Obs	4188		

**Method: Weighted Probit**  
**Dependent Variable: IPV1Year**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	-1.009	0.115	-8.798
ageresp	-0.015	0.003	-5.444
respincome/partincome	0.020	0.033	0.613
Log-likelihood	-872.70937		
Obs	4095		

**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: IPV1Year**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	-1.135	0.098	-11.603
ageresp	-0.014	0.002	-6.900
employed	0.030	0.056	0.540
Log-likelihood	-762.81989		
Obs	6333		

### 6.3 Domestic Violence Impact on Employment

**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: Employed, All Ages**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	0.589	0.129	4.571
Ageresp	-0.041	0.001	-29.429
educ23	0.923	0.109	8.493
educ45	1.253	0.113	11.106
educ67	1.518	0.120	12.674
educ8	1.687	0.125	13.515
educ9	1.941	0.148	13.157
children	-0.376	0.040	-9.369
partner	0.380	0.037	10.168
IPVPhy1Year	-0.248	0.104	-2.392
IPVPhy2Years	-0.302	0.145	-2.079
IPVPhy3Years	-0.402	0.138	-2.921
IPVPhy5Years	0.288	0.120	2.403
IPVPhy10Years	0.159	0.085	1.875
IPVPhy20Years	0.352	0.082	4.272
IPVPhy20YearsPlus	0.033	0.095	0.345
Log-likelihood	-3837.0773		
Obs	6333		

**Method: Weighted Probit****Dependent Variable: Employed, Under 60 years**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	-0.1657	0.1559	-1.062860808
Ageresp	-0.0137	0.0017	-8.058823529
educ23	1.001	0.1379	7.258883249
educ45	1.3187	0.1418	9.299717913
educ67	1.4784	0.1475	10.02305085
educ8	1.6483	0.1515	10.87986799
educ9	1.8199	0.1727	10.53792704
children	-0.475	0.0406	-11.69950739
partner	0.2346	0.0437	5.368421053
IPVPhy1Year	-0.2627	0.1068	-2.459737828
IPVPhy2Years	-0.3873	0.147	-2.634693878
IPVPhy3Years	-0.4891	0.1381	-3.541636495
IPVPhy5Years	0.1277	0.1205	1.059751037
IPVPhy10Years	-0.013	0.0869	-0.149597238
IPVPhy20Years	0.0118	0.0885	0.133333333
IPVPhy20YearsPlus	-0.1771	0.123	-1.439837398
Log-likelihood	-3115.093254		
Obs	5042		

**Method: Weighted Probit****Dependent Variable: Employed, Under 60 years**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	-0.142	0.155	-0.913
Ageresp	-0.014	0.002	-8.294
educ23	0.990	0.138	7.187
educ45	1.310	0.142	9.251
educ67	1.468	0.147	9.956
educ8	1.640	0.151	10.832
educ9	1.810	0.173	10.486
children	-0.472	0.040	-11.749
partner	0.234	0.043	5.443
IPVPhy0to3years	-0.358	0.075	-4.758
Log-likelihood	-3117.674		
Obs	5042		



**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: Employed, All Ages**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	0.544	0.128	4.269
Ageresp	-0.040	0.001	-28.714
educ23	0.932	0.108	8.608
educ45	1.267	0.112	11.271
educ67	1.527	0.119	12.789
educ8	1.690	0.124	13.586
educ9	1.953	0.147	13.307
children	-0.370	0.040	-9.317
partner	0.379	0.037	10.361
IPV1Year	0.035	0.075	0.469
Log-likelihood	-3860.9104		
Obs	6333		

**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: Employed, Under 60 years**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	-0.208	0.1547	-1.344537815
Ageresp	-0.0134	0.0017	-7.882352941
educ23	0.9942	0.1376	7.225290698
educ45	1.308	0.1416	9.237288136
educ67	1.4736	0.1472	10.01086957
educ8	1.6476	0.1513	10.88962327
educ9	1.8203	0.1724	10.55858469
children	-0.4853	0.0402	-12.0721393
partner	0.2624	0.0424	6.188679245
IPV1Year	-0.016	0.078	-0.205128205
Log-likelihood	-3128.908989		
Obs	5042		

## 6.4 Domestic Violence Impact on Whether Full-Time Employed

**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: Full-time Employed given already Employed, All Ages**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	0.687	0.079	8.657
Ageresp	-0.010	0.002	-5.105
educ8	0.382	0.068	5.654
educ9	0.621	0.102	6.065
children	-0.678	0.048	-14.208
partner	-0.136	0.050	-2.727
IPVPhy1Year	-0.026	0.138	-0.189
IPVPhy2Years	0.151	0.210	0.722
IPVPhy3Years	0.161	0.200	0.803
IPVPhy5Years	0.064	0.139	0.458
IPVPhy10Years	0.011	0.105	0.102
IPVPhy20Years	0.120	0.105	1.137
IPVPhy20YearsPlus	-0.264	0.153	-1.724
Log-likelihood	-2344.325756		
Obs	3534		

**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: Full-time Employed given already Employed, All Ages**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	0.700	0.079	8.888
Ageresp	-0.010	0.002	-5.500
educ8	0.380	0.068	5.636
educ9	0.623	0.102	6.094
children	-0.673	0.047	-14.218
partner	-0.144	0.049	-2.911
IPVPhy0to3years	0.056	0.102	0.548
Log-likelihood	-2347.131		
Obs	3534		

**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: Full-time Employed given already Employed, All Ages**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	0.707	0.078	9.064
Ageresp	-0.010	0.002	-5.500
educ8	0.380	0.068	5.622
educ9	0.623	0.102	6.087
children	-0.670	0.047	-14.135
partner	-0.147	0.049	-2.996
IPV1year	-0.028	0.094	-0.297
Log-likelihood	-2347.237		
Obs	3534		

**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: Fulltime Employed given already Employed, Under 60 Years**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	0.636	0.081	7.837
Ageresp	-0.008	0.002	-3.950
educ8	0.398	0.069	5.775
educ9	0.583	0.104	5.632
children	-0.691	0.048	-14.426
partner	-0.138	0.051	-2.688
IPVPhy1Year	-0.019	0.138	-0.137
IPVPhy2Years	0.145	0.210	0.693
IPVPhy3Years	0.157	0.200	0.783
IPVPhy5Years	0.065	0.141	0.461
IPVPhy10Years	-0.010	0.106	-0.093
IPVPhy20Years	0.132	0.108	1.225
IPVPhy20YearsPlus	-0.105	0.165	-0.635
Log-likelihood	-2274.445749		
Obs	3433		

**Method: Weighted Probit****Dependent Variable: Full-time Employed given already Employed, Under 60 Years**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	0.639	0.081	7.940
Ageresp	-0.008	0.002	-3.850
educ8	0.396	0.069	5.753
educ9	0.585	0.103	5.653
children	-0.687	0.048	-14.429
partner	-0.147	0.051	-2.911
IPVPhy0to3years	0.055	0.102	0.537
Log-likelihood	-2275.915		
Obs	3433		

**Method: Weighted Probit****Dependent Variable: Full-time Employed given already Employed, Under 60 Years**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	0.646	0.080	8.100
Ageresp	-0.008	0.002	-4.053
educ8	0.395	0.069	5.740
educ9	0.584	0.103	5.646
children	-0.684	0.048	-14.376
partner	-0.151	0.050	-3.000
IPV1year	-0.028	0.095	-0.295
Log-likelihood	-2276.016		
Obs	3433		

## 6.5 Domestic Violence Impact on Income

**Method: Censored Normal (Tobit)—minimum 0, maximum 500**

**Dependent Variable: Respincome given main source of income is wage/salary, All Ages**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	213.167	12.986	16.415
Ageresp	1.989	0.296	6.718
educ8	103.871	10.529	9.866
educ9	112.364	15.360	7.315
children	1.534	6.972	0.220
IPVPhy1Year	12.229	19.583	0.624
IPVPhy2Years	7.296	27.007	0.270
IPVPhy3Years	32.448	27.945	1.161
IPVPhy5Years	69.209	21.980	3.149
IPVPhy10Years	35.091	15.315	2.291
IPVPhy20Years	2.859	15.224	0.188
IPVPhy20YearsPlus	-6.799	25.155	-0.270
Fulltimeemp	231.422	7.027	32.932
Log-likelihood	-11602.930		
Obs	2906		

**Method: Censored Normal (Tobit)—minimum 0, maximum 500**

**Dependent Variable: Respincome given main source of income is wage/salary, All Ages**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	215.770	12.950	16.662
Ageresp	1.983	0.290	6.832
educ8	103.072	10.550	9.770
educ9	114.156	15.452	7.388
children	3.155	6.984	0.452
IPVPhy0to3years	12.395	14.085	0.880
Fulltimeemp	232.745	7.046	33.034
Log-likelihood	-11610.710		
Obs	2906		

**Method: Censored Normal (Tobit)—minimum 0, maximum 500**

**Dependent Variable: Respincome given main source of income is wage/salary, All Ages**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	215.756	12.895	16.732
Ageresp	1.971	0.290	6.807
educ8	102.966	10.547	9.763
educ9	113.556	15.450	7.350
children	2.640	6.990	0.378
IPV1year	23.872	14.080	1.695
Fulltimeemp	232.779	7.043	33.050
Log-likelihood	-11609.650		
Obs	2906		

**Method: Censored Normal (Tobit)—minimum 0, maximum 500**

**Dependent Variable: Respincome given main source of income is wage/salary, Under 60 Years**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	211.015	13.253	15.922
Ageresp	2.052	0.311	6.592
educ8	102.988	10.641	9.678
educ9	110.752	15.442	7.172
children	1.301	7.038	0.185
IPVPhy1Year	15.256	19.782	0.771
IPVPhy2Years	7.172	27.041	0.265
IPVPhy3Years	32.431	27.977	1.159
IPVPhy5Years	69.296	22.011	3.148
IPVPhy10Years	34.142	15.379	2.220
IPVPhy20Years	5.535	15.548	0.356
IPVPhy20YearsPlus	-7.000	25.557	-0.274
Fulltimeemp	232.115	7.124	32.583
Log-likelihood	-11337.470		
Obs	2845		

**Method: Censored Normal (Tobit)—minimum 0, maximum 500**

**Dependent Variable: Respincome given main source of income is wage/salary, Under 60 Years**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	213.200	13.204	16.146
Ageresp	2.062	0.304	6.775
educ8	102.180	10.662	9.584
educ9	112.582	15.534	7.247
children	2.822	7.050	0.400
IPVPhy0to3years	13.794	14.166	0.974
Fulltimeemp	233.462	7.143	32.686
Log-likelihood	-11345.090		
Obs	2845		

**Method: Censored Normal (Tobit)—minimum 0, maximum 500**

**Dependent Variable: Respincome given main source of income is wage/salary, Under 60 Years**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	213.313	13.149	16.223
Ageresp	2.046	0.304	6.737
educ8	102.056	10.658	9.575
educ9	111.933	15.533	7.206
children	2.297	7.055	0.326
IPV1year	25.306	14.164	1.787
Fulltimeemp	233.504	7.140	32.704
Log-likelihood	-11343.960		
Obs	2845		

## 6.6 Domestic Violence Impact on Receiving Government Benefits

**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: SomeGovt, All Ages**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	1.012	0.133	7.617
Ageresp	0.010	0.002	5.941
educ23	-0.478	0.098	-4.897
educ45	-0.637	0.104	-6.102
educ67	-0.900	0.115	-7.858
educ8	-1.008	0.121	-8.340
educ9	-1.096	0.147	-7.484
children	1.575	0.050	31.256
partner	-0.815	0.045	-18.221
IPVPhy1Year	0.341	0.132	2.578
IPVPhy2Years	0.431	0.199	2.161
IPVPhy3Years	0.811	0.210	3.870
IPVPhy5Years	0.088	0.144	0.613
IPVPhy10Years	0.191	0.107	1.792
IPVPhy20Years	-0.016	0.096	-0.167
IPVPhy20YearsPlus	0.301	0.109	2.768
Fulltimeemp	-1.289	0.070	-18.542
Parttimeemp	-0.684	0.063	-10.784
Wage	-0.694	0.060	-11.600
Log-likelihood	-2889.6136		
Obs	6333		



**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: SomeGovt, All Ages**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	1.011	0.132	7.644
Ageresp	0.011	0.002	6.176
educ23	-0.473	0.097	-4.855
educ45	-0.637	0.104	-6.112
educ67	-0.900	0.114	-7.876
educ8	-1.010	0.121	-8.365
educ9	-1.091	0.146	-7.466
children	1.581	0.050	31.557
partner	-0.823	0.044	-18.587
IPVPhy0to3years	0.452	0.098	4.598
Fulltimeemp	-1.288	0.069	-18.583
Parttimeemp	-0.680	0.063	-10.758
Wage	-0.691	0.060	-11.589
Log-likelihood	-2897.118		
Obs	6333		

**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: SomeGovt, All Ages**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	1.066	0.131	8.115
Ageresp	0.010	0.002	6.063
educ23	-0.472	0.097	-4.843
educ45	-0.628	0.104	-6.032
educ67	-0.897	0.114	-7.850
educ8	-1.008	0.121	-8.355
educ9	-1.095	0.146	-7.505
children	1.579	0.050	31.633
partner	-0.837	0.044	-18.971
IPV1year	0.134	0.091	1.472
Fulltimeemp	-1.298	0.069	-18.779
Parttimeemp	-0.693	0.063	-10.998
Wage	-0.683	0.059	-11.497
Log-likelihood	-2906.884		
Obs	6333		

## 6.7 Domestic Violence Impact on Being With a Partner in The Future

**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: Partner, All Ages**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	-1.573	0.170	-9.240
Ageresp	0.084	0.010	8.551
Agersquared	-0.001	0.000	-9.000
Employed	0.309	0.040	7.790
children	0.965	0.047	20.439
IPVPhy1Year	-0.324	0.103	-3.160
IPVPhy2Years	-1.177	0.155	-7.619
IPVPhy3Years	-0.932	0.138	-6.753
IPVPhy5Years	-0.937	0.115	-8.124
IPVPhy10Years	-0.438	0.086	-5.114
IPVPhy20Years	-0.516	0.083	-6.247
IPVPhy20YearsPlus	-0.118	0.091	-1.295
ChildAbuse	-0.168	0.046	-3.626
Log-likelihood	-3967.432592		
Obs	6333		

**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: Partner, All Ages**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	-1.568	0.168	-9.325
Ageresp	0.082	0.010	8.433
Agersquared	-0.001	0.000	-9.000
Employed	0.315	0.039	8.020
children	0.937	0.046	20.192
IPVPhy	-0.511	0.043	-11.939
ChildAbuse	-0.172	0.046	-3.741
Log-likelihood	-4000.512926		
Obs	6333		

**Method: Weighted Probit**

**Dependent Variable: Partner, All Ages**

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT	STANDARD ERROR	T-STATISTIC
Intercept	-1.565	0.168	-9.314
Ageresp	0.081	0.010	8.309
Agersquared	-0.001	0.000	-9.000
Employed	0.321	0.039	8.212
children	0.927	0.046	20.111
IPV	-0.369	0.041	-9.071
ChildAbuse	-0.178	0.046	-3.870
Log-likelihood	-4030.938322		
Obs	6333		

## 6.8 Future Refinements to The ABS Women's Safety Survey

This section reproduces some comments on the future design of the WSS, provided to ABS through OSW, at the request of OSW.

### 6.8.1 Restructure Questions Relating to Partner Violence

In line with much of the literature, we are using a prevalence approach to estimating costs of domestic violence. That is, we want to know the total impacts in the most recent twelve months of all incidents of domestic violence experienced by a woman in current and past relationships. In many instances, a woman experiences a series of incidents of more or less severity, more than one kind of oppressive behaviour, and a variety of consequences. Some of the impacts are immediate consequences of particular episodes of violence. Others occur over a longer horizon.

Therefore, where a woman indicates that she has ever experienced violence (broadly defined to include harassment, stalking, sexual assault etc) from a partner or former partner, she should then be asked, in relation to violence from all partners (current and previous), a series of questions that are more structured in relation to time period, and less focussed on the last incident of violence or on the overall (atemporal) development of relationships with past and current partners.

Note that by asking the questions in relation to all experiences within a time period from current or previous partners, it should be possible to include (implicitly) questions currently omitted, for example in relation to sexual assault and stalking by the current partner.

### 6.8.2 Short-Term Impacts of Partner Violence

From the point of view of our study, a more useful sequence of questions might be:

- Have you experienced from current or previous partner (in the last 12 months; 1 to 2 years ago, 2 to 3 years ago, 3 to 5 years ago, 5 to 10 years ago, 10 to 20 years ago, 20 years ago or more):<sup>14</sup>
  - Physical violence (by type, injured, not injured, threat or attempted only).
  - Sexual violence (injured, not injured, threat or attempted only).
  - Emotional abuse (by type).<sup>15</sup>
  - Harassment/stalking (by type).
- Ask for each of these time periods, did violence (use broad definition) occur on average:
  - More than once a week.
  - Once a week.
  - Once a month.
  - Once every 3 months.
  - Once every 6 months.
  - Once a year only.
  - Once ever.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Note that the current survey only asks about violence from current or previous partners ever and when the last incident of violence (which may or may not be from the partner) occurred—which effectively underestimates the prevalence of violence from a current or previous partner in the past 12 months. The categorisation by time period is included in this form to ensure comparability with the previous survey. A simpler classification of more ancient experiences would probably suffice for current analytical purposes (e.g. in the last 12 months, in the previous 12 months, 2–5 years ago, 5–10 years ago, more than 10 years ago)

<sup>15</sup> In the current survey this question was only asked with regards to current partners. That about stalking relates only to former partners.

<sup>16</sup> Note: the frequency classification used in the previous publication (frequently, sometimes, rarely, once only, never) is too vague to be useful for analytical purposes.

- During any of these time periods were children under 15 living in your household, if so:
    - Did they witness the violence against you (for a large proportion of the incidents of violence, for some of the incidents of violence, rarely, never).
    - Did they themselves experience violence (on average: More than once a week, once a week, once a month, once every 3 months, once every 6 months, once a year only, once only, never).
  - As a result of your experiences of violence from current or former partners, have you in the last 12 months:
    - Attended a GP (number of times).
    - Attended a dentist (number of times).
    - Attended by a paramedic (number of times).
    - Attended a hospital emergency department (number of times).
    - Admitted to hospital (number of times).
    - Sought counselling (by telephone/ in person). If in person, ask type of counselling received: list to include: social worker, health worker (including doctor or nurse), psychologist, psychiatrist, marriage counsellor, minister/priest/religious figure, other
    - Sought financial advice.<sup>17</sup>
    - Sought legal advice.
    - Absent from work (number of days).
    - Were late to work/ had to leave early etc (number of times, average hours lost per occasion).
    - Could not attend voluntary/community work (number of occasions).
    - Could not attend educational institution (number of days).
    - Could not do childcare (number of days).
    - Could not do shopping or household chores (number of days).
    - Could not do social/recreational activities (number of days).
    - Changed hours of work a week<sup>18</sup> (from ?? to ??). If hours now zero, are you 'unemployed and looking for work', or 'not in labour force'.
    - Experienced a change in your personal income from employment (Wages/Salary and income from own business) from \$?? per week to \$?? per week.
    - Left your partner due to the violence:
      - on how many occasions,
      - ask total number of days in last 12 months they stayed away (are they currently living with partner?), and
      - for nights spent away from partner where did they mostly stay? (indicate most important category from amongst: safe house, friend/family, hotel/motel, caravan, SAAP (crisis accommodation), hostel/boarding house, car, improvised dwelling/squat/tent, other).
    - Separated from partner; divorced from partner.
    - Incurred additional costs to you associated with:
      - childcare (Yes/No; if yes, estimate of such costs in last 12 months)
      - children's education (Yes/No; if yes, estimate of such costs in last 12 months)
      - medical/legal/counselling services (Yes/No; if yes, estimate of such costs in last 12 months)
      - temporary accommodation (Yes/No; if yes, estimate of such costs in last 12 months)
      - replacement of household items (Yes/No; if yes, estimate of such costs in last 12 months)
      - purchase of other goods and services (Yes/No; if yes, estimate of such costs in last 12 months)
- [Need to estimate total of such costs]
- obtained additional income from government assistance (for how many weeks?)
  - As a result of your experiences of violence from current or former partners, in the last 12 months :
    - have police been involved in relation to the violence or its consequences;
    - have you sought/obtained a restraining order against your partner/former partner;
    - has partner/former partner been charged with an offence;
    - has partner/former partner been remanded in custody, or convicted and imprisoned (length of time in custody).
- We recognise that the above questions may need to be consolidated somewhat, given the limitations of the survey format and sample size.

### 6.8.3 Family Violence

Given the possible close parallels between partner violence and violence from other family members, it would be appropriate to ask a set of questions similar to the above in relation to violence (broadly defined) experienced at the hands of other family members.

- Where violence had been experienced from partners and also from other family members, it would probably be appropriate to ask a single set of questions about the overall experience of violence during the relevant time period

<sup>17</sup> Do NOT include whether received Centrelink payments in this question (as in the last survey).

<sup>18</sup> The ABS now defines full time to be over 35 hours of work a week rather than asking a person whether they are "full-time" or "part-time".

#### 6.8.4 Longer-Term Impacts of Domestic Violence

In addition to seeking such information about short-term impacts of domestic violence, it is important that the survey allow an estimate of possible longer-term impacts, using a cross-sectional approach. Thus it is important to retain and augment questions about the following current socio-demographic characteristics of the respondent:

- labour force status (employed, unemployed and seeking work, not in labour force, hours worked),
- household type (incl. number of children),
- current housing tenure (owned dwelling, private rental, public/community rental housing, categories of temporary accommodation as above),
- occupation,
- highest educational attainment,<sup>19</sup>
- educational experience in the most recent 12 months,
- personal income from employment<sup>20</sup> (\$),
- other personal income<sup>21</sup> (\$),
- government income support by type.

At present some of these are treated somewhat cursorily in the survey, or omitted.

#### 6.8.5 Other Matters

Modification of the survey in the manner proposed would reduce the importance of questions relating to the last incident of violence. However, certain questions are still probably most usefully asked in respect of the most recent specific incident of violence, rather than in respect of violence experienced during a period.

For example, knowledge of the perpetrator, type and the location of the last incident would be useful, since it allows an estimate of the proportion of violence of various kinds that occurs in different locations. Note though, that the definition of ‘workplace’ should probably be broadened to refer to ‘during working hours or while on a journey to/from work’, as this would better accord with the scope of employer liability enshrined in the Workers’ Compensation system.

It would also be useful to ask (all survey respondents)

- whether they witnessed domestic violence prior to the age of 15.<sup>22</sup>
- whether it was a male perpetrator hitting a male/female victim, or vice versa (and how frequently incidents were witnessed).<sup>23</sup>

We also support extending the sample to include similar questions to males as well as to females. In this case, particularly, it would be useful to extend the questions to ask whether the respondent perpetrated violence, as well as receiving it. However, extension of the sample to include males should not be at the expense of increasing the sampling variation for female respondents.

As a final comment, some existing questions are less than helpful to the prospective analyst. For example, those that ask whether behaviours have changed as a result of violence would be much more useful if they also asked if behaviour had changed in the direction of “more” or “less”, (preferably with some quantification).

<sup>19</sup> There should be one question asked (not age left secondary school and post-school qualification). In terms of the lower qualification levels they should be: still at school, never went to secondary school, completed year 10 certificate, completed year 12 certificate, and then so on with the other higher categories of educational attainment. This is because the age of leaving secondary school varies across jurisdictions and within school year groups.

<sup>20</sup> The income groups should be evenly spaced, and the top income level should be above the median for full-time workers (in the last survey the top income group was \$500 per week which was below what most people receive per week if they are a full-time worker (based on ABS 6306 May 1996). Consequently a significant proportion was in the top income range and a large amount of useful information was lost about the effects of domestic violence on income.

<sup>21</sup> As above.

<sup>22</sup> Currently the survey only asks about child abuse however literature hypothesises that there is also a connection between witnessing domestic violence and being a victim/perpetrator in the future.

<sup>23</sup> As this was so long ago it may be more useful to ask broader ranges like: weekly over how many years, monthly over how many years, 6 monthly over how many years, yearly over how many years, and once only.



## 7. The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health (ALSWH)

This Appendix sets out the preliminary work done with the data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health (ALSWH) and the relationship between domestic violence and certain economic outcomes.

The aims of the preliminary work on the ALSWH data include:

- to gauge the extent of the relationship between domestic violence and the economic outcomes within the different waves of the survey;

- to gauge the extent of the relationship between domestic violence and the economic outcomes across the waves—whether the relationship is apparent across the three cohorts and across each cohort through time; and,
- to explore the extent to which the relationship is consistent with that in the WSS (on which extensive analysis has been undertaken).

Table 21 sets out the basic structure of the ALSWH. There are three cohorts—Young, Mid, and Old—and each is surveyed at 2–4 year intervals.

**Table 21: Structure Of The Surveys**

YEAR SURVEYED	COHORT 1 (YOUNG)	COHORT 2 (MID)	COHORT 3 (OLD)
1996	18–23 years <b>14,779 women</b> V: within last 12 months. DV: ever Inc: no Emp: indirectly	45–50 years <b>14,099 women</b> V: within last 12 months only. DV: ever Inc: no Emp: yes:	70–75 years <b>12,940 women</b>
1997			
1998		47–52 years <b>12,338 women</b> V: within last 12 months, 12–24 months, or > 24 months DV: no Inc: yes Emp: yes	
1999			73–78 years <b>10,434 women</b>
2000	22–27 years <b>9,689 women</b> V: within last 12 months, 12–24 months, or > 24 months DV: ever Inc: yes Emp: indirectly		
2001		50–55 years <b>11,202</b> V: within last 12 months or > 12 months DV: no Inc: yes Emp: indirectly	
2002			76–81 years <b>8,646</b>

YEAR SURVEYED	COHORT 1 (YOUNG)	COHORT 2 (MID)	COHORT 3 (OLD)
2003	25–30 years ? V: within last 12 months DV: ever Inc: yes Emp: indirectly		

The preliminary work has focussed on Wave two for the Young cohort and Waves one and two for the Mid cohort. With respect to the other cohort waves:

- The first wave of the Young cohort surveyed the women when they were aged 18–23. The domestic situation of many of those women is likely to have been in a state of flux at the time of the survey. For example, fewer will have been married than in the other cohorts and many may still be in tertiary education.
- The members of the Old cohort are no longer in the workforce (in general) and so the cohort will not inform the analysis here.
- The analysis of the Mid cohort simply began with Waves one and two.

Table 21 also outlines how the relevant aspects of the survey instruments differed across cohorts and across waves within each cohort. The table shows whether questions are asked about violence (V), domestic violence (DV), income (Inc), and employment status (Emp).

Questions relating to violence are often asked, but not always. Questions relating to experiencing domestic violence are sometimes asked, but usually relate to whether the respondent has ever experienced domestic violence rather than has experienced domestic violence within the last 12 months.

The economic outcomes considered in the preliminary work are income and employment status. The likelihood that a women lives with her partner is also considered, because of its role in the economies of scale of households,

Specific questions on income and employment status are not always asked. For example, wave 1 of the Mid cohort does not contain income information and wave 2 of the Young cohort does not contain a direct question on employment status.

Proxy variables are defined where possible. In the first example in the previous paragraph, it can be determined that a women is doing no hours of employment, would like to do more paid work, and the reason she cannot do more paid work is that she cannot find a job. In such situations, different proxy variables could have been developed. The sensitivity of the conclusions to the definitions of proxy variables is a topic for further analysis on the data.

In the second example, the longitudinal nature of the ALSWH can be exploited. Income in the second wave can be related to the questions about domestic violence in the first wave. In fact, since there are no specific questions about domestic violence in the second wave, that is one of the main relationships for the Mid cohort.

## 7.1 Preliminary Results

### 7.1.1 Young Cohort Wave 2

Table 22 shows basic statistics for domestic violence and the economic outcomes in wave 2 for the Young cohort.

Domestic violence is defined as answering yes to the following two questions:

- 1 Have you ever been in a violent relationship with a partner/spouse?
- 2 In the last twelve months have you experienced either:
  - Being pushed, grabbed, shoved, kicked or hit, or
  - Being forced to take part in unwanted sexual activity?

‘Employed’ means that the respondent has positive hours of employment. ‘Income’ is obtained by setting the respondent’s income equal to the mid-point of the bin in the survey instrument. ‘Income’ is gross before tax income from all sources, including pensions, allowances, and financial support from parents. The closed bins cover the range of zero to \$1500 per week and the top open bin is \$1500 and above. The data is therefore much richer than that in the WSS.

The values estimate those in the population of women between 18 and 23 years of age.



**Table 22: Young Cohort Wave 2—Statistics on DV and Economic Outcomes**

	DV	NO DV
Occurrence	2.5%	97.5%
Employed	83.2%	87.8%
Income (weekly)	\$456	\$511
Live with partner	44.5%	48.0%

It is estimated that around 2.5% of the population has been subjected to domestic violence (as defined here). The employment rate within that group is approximately 4.6% lower than in the group not subjected to domestic violence and the weekly income is approximately \$55 lower. Approximately 3.5% fewer women live with partners.

Those results are suggestive. To more accurately estimate the relationship between domestic violence and the economic outcomes it is necessary to control for other factors such as:

- education level,
- whether the respondent lives with a partner,
- whether the respondent has been subjected to domestic violence at all, and
- children.

For example, there may be auxiliary relationships between domestic violence, education level, and the economic outcomes; or between having a partner, education level, and the economic outcomes. Age is not included because of the definition of the Cohort.

When the additional factors are taken into account, the negative relationship between domestic violence on the economic outcomes is not found. The result warrants further analysis—for example, whether it is related to the process of family formation.

#### 7.1.2 Mid Cohort Wave 1

Table 23 shows basic statistics for domestic violence and employment in wave 1 for the Mid cohort.

Domestic violence is defined as in wave 2 for the Young cohort. ‘Employed’ means that respondent’s main occupation is ‘unemployed—looking for work’. There is no income variable for this cohort wave.

The values estimate those in the population of women between 45 and 50 years of age.

**Table 23: Mid Cohort Wave 1—Statistics on DV and Economic Outcomes**

	DV	NO DV
Occurrence	2.2%	97.8%
Employed	59.1%	74.9%
Live with partner	57.1%	80.6%

It is estimated that around 2.2% of the population has been subjected to domestic violence (as defined here). The employment rate within that group is approximately 15.8% lower than in the group not subjected to domestic violence. Approximately 23.5% fewer women live with partners.

When the other factors are taken into account, the employment rate for women subject to domestic violence is estimated to be approximately 8.5% lower (other variables held constant). The proportion living with partners is approximately 17% lower (other variables held constant).

### 7.1.3 Mid Cohort Wave 2

Table 24 shows basic statistics for domestic violence and employment in wave 2 for the Mid cohort.

There are no specific questions on domestic violence for this cohort wave (although there are detailed questions on violence more generally). Domestic violence status is therefore taken from wave 1 of the Mid cohort. Waves 1 and 2 for the Mid cohort are two years apart. Therefore, the domestic violence variable is directly signalling domestic violence within the past three years and indirectly signalling more recent domestic violence. 'Employed' is defined as in wave 1 of the Mid cohort. Income is obtained by setting the respondent's income equal

to the mid-point of the bin in the survey instrument. 'Income' is gross before tax income from all sources, including pensions, allowances, and financial support from parents. The bins in the survey instrument are no income, \$120–\$299 per week, and so on. The response for a woman with income less than \$120 per week is uncertain.

The values estimate those in the population of women between 47 and 52 years of age.

**Table 24: Mid Cohort Wave 2—Statistics on DV and Economic Outcomes**

	DV	NO DV
Occurrence	2.2%	97.8%
Employed	62.6%	65.8%
Income (weekly)	\$482	\$395
Live with partner	53.6%	80.3%

The employment rate within that group is approximately 3.2% lower than in the group not subjected to domestic violence. Weekly income is approximately \$87 lower and approximately 26.7% fewer women live with partners.

When the other factors are taken into account, the employment rate for women subject to domestic violence is estimated to be approximately 1.4% lower (other variables held constant). Weekly income is estimated to be \$55 lower and the proportion living with partners is approximately 18% lower (other variables held constant).

## 7.2 Directions For Further Analysis

This appendix has described preliminary results from the study of the data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health. The results suggest that further analysis should be undertaken on the datasets. That analysis includes:

- Incorporating wave 3 for the Mid cohort and wave 3 for the Young cohort (when it becomes available) into the analysis.
- More fully exploiting the panel nature of the data. The analysis here has involved connecting domestic violence data from one wave with economic outcomes from a second wave. More sophisticated statistical techniques can be applied to the data to exploit the panel nature of the data, taking into account that similar questions are asked in different waves. For example, similar questions are asked in waves 2 and 3 for the Young cohort. The relationship between domestic violence and economic outcomes can be estimated by combining the data. In addition, changes across the two waves automatically take into account individual specific unobserved effects such as ability.
- Investigating the sensitivity of the results to the definitions of the variables such as proxy variables for employment.
- Including health variables in the model.

## 8. People Homeless Due to Domestic Violence

The ABS census estimated that the total number of homeless people in Australia in 2001 was 99,900. Although the ABS tried to capture as much of the population as possible—by using innovative surveying techniques of those in primary

homelessness, school surveys of youth homelessness, and adjusting actual census data supplemented with SAAP data—underestimation of homelessness (especially primary homelessness) is likely.

**Table 25: Homeless People by Household Type, 2001**

	BOARDING HOUSE	FRIENDS OR RELATIVES	SAAP	IMPROVISED DWELLINGS	ALL
Single Male under 25	2,880	11,812	1,011	990	16,693
Single Male over 25	11,674	3,560	2,382	2,332	19,948
Single Female under 25	2,000	10,151	978	958	14,087
Single Female over 25	2,414	2,436	1,136	1,113	7,100
Couples	1,491	12,689	893	3,497	18,569
Family	2,418	7,966	7,851	5,268	23,503
Couple	734	1,926	1,245	1,864	5,769
Male Single Parent	102	160	133	223	617
Female Single Parent	265	694	2,521	236	3,716
Children	1,317	5,186	3,953	2,945	13,401
Other	–	–	–	–	–
Total	22,877	48,614	14,251	14,158	99,900

Source: ABS unpublished data, SAAP unpublished data

The ABS also examined “marginally housed” people in caravan parks (defined as people renting caravans but did not have a full time job and were at their usual address) and hypothesised that they are used similar to boarding houses (SAAP sometimes sends people there when there is no SAAP accommodation available and boarding houses may simply be non-existent in regional areas).

To complicate matters, homeless people often move from one form of accommodation to another. Furthermore, the ABS findings do not easily translate from the number of homeless on one particular night (a “point in time” count) into the number of homeless over the course of the year (“annual count”).

For example, if each person is homeless for a whole year then the number of homeless for the whole year is 99,900. However if each person is homeless for half a year then the number of homeless for the whole year is 199,800, and so on. The ABS hypothesizes that boarding house residents are a low turnover population with a high length of time being homeless, compared to people staying with friends or families which is a high turnover group.

In 2001–02 the SAAP supported 95,600 clients and approximately 52,698 children. As 14,251 people (clients and children) were in SAAP accommodation at the census, this means that the average time spent in SAAP accommodation is 1.15 months. In comparison, the survey of SAAP clients on the amount of time homeless, estimates that the average time homeless in 2002–03 is 3.03 months<sup>24</sup> (see Table 26).

<sup>24</sup> Assumes that the people in “At Imminent Risk” have been homeless for the average duration of SAAP accommodation (1.15 months).

Table 26: Length of Homelessness of SAAP Clients Prior to Support, 2001

	< ONE WEEK	1 WEEK TO 1 MTH	1-3 MTHS	3-6 MTHS	6-12 MTHS	1+ YEARS	AT IMMINENT RISK	AVERAGE TIME HOMELESS (MTHS)
Single Male under 25	16%	16%	9%	5%	4%	8%	41%	2.35
Single Male over 25	22%	15%	7%	4%	4%	7%	39%	2.15
Single Female under 25	12%	15%	9%	6%	6%	11%	40%	2.87
Single Female over 25	12%	11%	6%	5%	5%	15%	45%	3.27
Couples	13%	19%	12%	7%	4%	6%	38%	2.26
Family								
Couple	10%	21%	15%	7%	6%	7%	33%	2.58
Male Single Parent	12%	21%	12%	7%	6%	8%	34%	2.55
Female Single Parent	9%	14%	9%	6%	6%	16%	39%	3.51
Children	10%	14%	9%	6%	6%	15%	39%	3.42
Other	11%	15%	12%	8%	6%	10%	39%	2.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>3.03</b>

Source: SAAP 2002-03 Data. Children based 90% with female single parent, 7% with both parents, and 2% with male single parent. Support periods where client type is unknown is distributed across client types dependent upon client type distribution. Support periods where the length of homelessness is missing is distributed across length of homelessness groups dependent upon length of homelessness group distribution.

Consequently by applying the estimated length of homelessness of SAAP clients group to the estimated number of homeless people during the 2001 census, we can estimate the annual number of homeless people (see Table 27).

**Table 27: Annual Number Of Homeless People, 2002–03**

	BOARDING HOUSE	FRIENDS OR RELATIVES	SAAP	IMPROVISED DWELLINGS	ALL
Single Male under 25	21,925	89,913	12,720	7,536	132,094
Single Male over 25	91,612	27,936	29,969	18,304	167,821
Single Female under 25	14,292	72,546	12,311	6,847	105,997
Single Female over 25	17,505	17,663	14,297	8,068	57,534
Couples	10,953	93,233	2,512	25,693	132,391
Family					
Couple	5,014	13,161	2,885	12,736	33,795
Male Single Parent	708	1,114	1,094	1,557	4,473
Female Single Parent	1,783	4,665	20,818	1,583	28,849
Children	9,073	35,727	53,800	20,288	118,888
Other	–	–	994	–	–
Total	172,866	355,959	151,400	102,611	782,836

Annual estimates of people staying in SAAP accommodation based on actual SAAP data for 2002–03.

Annual estimate of homeless people staying in other accommodation based on estimate of homeless people from ABS 2050.0 Counting the Homeless 2001 and applying the length of homelessness of SAAP clients and increased with population growth.

SAAP is a joint initiative by the Commonwealth and State Governments to provide transitional supported accommodation and associated services to homeless people or people at risk of becoming homeless.<sup>25</sup> The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare collects information from SAAP agencies (the National Data Collection) on the demographics of the clients, the number of times support is sought by the client, the reasons for seeking assistance, the amount of time per support period, what support was requested and received, and support given to accompanying children.

From this we can infer the number of people who were using SAAP for domestic violence reasons. However domestic violence is often not revealed as a reason for seeking assistance until after the initial data collection and consequently it is underreported and therefore these estimates are probably an underestimation (Chung et al 2000 p. 35). However this is somewhat alleviated by examining those who indicate physical/emotional or sexual abuse as the main reason for seeking support and were living with their spouse/partner before the support period but not with the spouse/partner during the support period, in addition to those who indicate domestic violence specifically as the main reason for seeking support.

Finally clients who indicated DV as a reason for seeking support but were also living with their spouse/partner during the support period were excluded, as it is likely that they were referring to a broader form of family violence rather than intimate partner violence.

<sup>25</sup> Problems with the National Data Collection include (1) participation with data collection by SAAP funded agencies (95% of agencies participated and the participation rate was the lowest for agencies targeting women experiencing domestic violence); (2) reasons for clients seeking assistance was not available for over half of all the time periods covered (Chung et al 2000) While most estimates are adjusted for non-consent or agency non-participation, no allowance has been made for agencies who did not provide forms for some but not all support periods (AIHW 2002-03 p. xvii).

Table 28: SAAP Support Periods In 2002–03

	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT PERIODS
Single Male under 25	1.10%
Single Male over 25	0.70%
Single Female under 25	12.30%
Single Female over 25	43.00%
Couples	–
Family	
Couple	–
Male Single Parent	5.30%
Female Single Parent	50.60%
Other	10.40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30.06%</b>
Clients	21.67%
Accompanying Children	45.84%
<b>Total DV Support Periods</b>	<b>64,192</b>
Clients	30,224
Accompanying Children	33,968
<b>Total support periods/clients</b>	<b>213,543</b>
Clients	139,443
Accompanying Children	74,100

Note: Support Period where client type is unknown is distributed across client types dependent upon client type distribution. Reasons for seeking assistance by children based on a total 74,100 child support periods, 90% with female single parent, 7% with both parents, and 2% with male single parent.

SAAP data also records the accommodation of the client before and after each support period—from this we can infer the number of people who were staying at a boarding house, friends or relatives, and improvised dwellings (homeless) due to domestic violence and the number of people who were staying at their own home, private rental, public or community housing, institutional or other (non-homeless).

For example, Table 30 and Table 32 shows that clients are much more likely to be coming from non-homeless accommodation if they indicate that their main reason for seeking support was domestic violence (31.9% of support periods where the client's previous accommodation was non-homeless accommodation indicated domestic violence compared to 21.7% of all support periods).

Of clients who are homeless before using the SAAP service, clients are much more likely to be coming from another SAAP service if they indicate that their main reason for seeking support was domestic violence (17.7% of support periods where clients previous accommodation was homeless accommodation indicated domestic violence compared to 13.7% of all support periods where the client's previous accommodation was homeless accommodation).

Finally, of clients who are homeless before using the SAAP service but the previous accommodation was non-SAAP, if clients indicated that their main reason for seeking support was domestic violence then they were more likely to be coming from friends and family and less likely to be coming from a boarding house or improvised dwelling compared to all support periods where the client's previous accommodation was non-SAAP homeless accommodation (see Table 29).

Table 29: DV Support by Previous Non-SAAP Homeless Accommodation, 2002–03

% OF SUPPORT PERIODS THAT ARE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	BOARDING HOUSE	FRIENDS OR FAMILY	IMPROVISED DWELLING	TOTAL
Single Male under 25	0.7	2.5	0.3	1.7
Single Male over 25	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.4
Single Female under 25	13.9	9.8	6.8	10.0
Single Female over 25	32.6	42.3	20.5	33.2
Couples	–	–	–	–
Family				
Couple	–	–	–	–
Male Single Parent	1.7	6.9	3.7	4.3
Female Single Parent	35.1	40.2	28.7	37.4
Other	1.3	7.6	2.8	5.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>16.1</b>
Clients	11.1	15.2	4.8	11.2
<b>Accompanying Children</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>32.4</b>

Note: Support Period where client type is unknown is distributed across client types dependent upon client type distribution. Reasons for seeking assistance by children based on a total 74,100 child support periods, 90% with female single parent, 7% with both parents, and 2% with male single parent.

Similar patterns in accommodation hold for after the use of the SAAP service. However this information is less reliable as for 32% and 39% of domestic violence and non domestic violence clients, respectively, no information is available about their next source of accommodation (compared to information about their previous source of accommodation for 7% and 11% of domestic violence and non domestic violence clients, respectively).

The proportion of support periods that are due to domestic violence reasons for each of the previous non-SAAP homeless accommodation options in Table 29 is assumed to hold across all people in non-SAAP homeless accommodation as estimated in Table 27.

Note that between 87% of women (Chung et al 2000) p. 32 and 95.5% (WSS)<sup>26</sup> who experience violence do not approach a crisis service for assistance—they stay at home or access other accommodation. As they haven't accessed the crisis accommodation they are probably experiencing less severe domestic violence and are probably staying with family/friends or at a hotel/caravan before either returning to the partner or moving on to non-homeless accommodation. As a result the estimates of the proportion of people who use these accommodation options are probably underestimated. However as the cost applied to homeless people staying with family and friends is zero (see below) and the proportion staying in a hotel/caravan is small, this method probably underestimates the additional temporary accommodation costs.

<sup>26</sup> Physical assault

Table 30: Type of Accommodation Before/After Support 2002–03—Dv

% OF ALL SUPPORT PERIODS	BOARDING HOUSE		FRIENDS OR FAMILY		SAAP		IMPROVISED DWELLING		NON-HOMELESS ACCOMMODATION		NO INFORMATION		TOTAL	
	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A
Single Male under 25	3	2	43	20	17	12	2	1	27	24	9	41	100	100
Single Male over 25	6	7	6	5	7	5	6	2	58	40	16	42	100	100
Single Female under 25	5	2	19	13	13	11	2	1	51	34	11	39	100	100
Single Female over 25	4	3	8	6	11	11	3	1	63	42	12	37	100	100
Couples	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Family														
Couple	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Male Single Parent	3	3	14	9	11	12	5	0	62	36	4	40	100	100
Female Single Parent	3	2	6	4	15	14	1	0	68	48	8	32	100	100
Children	3	2	7	5	14	14	1	0	68	47	7	32	100	100
Other	1	1	14	10	13	10	2	0	55	40	15	39	100	100
Total	3	2	8	6	13	13	2	0	65	45	9	34	100	100

Boarding house includes rooming house, hostel, hotel or caravan. Friends or family includes rent free in house/flat. SAAP includes SAAP or other emergency housing. Improvised Dwellings includes car/tent/park/street/squat. Non-Homeless Accommodation includes own home, boarding in a private home, private rental, public or community housing, institutional, and other.

Support Period where client type is unknown is distributed across client types dependent upon client type distribution.

Reasons for seeking assistance by children based on a total 74,100 child support periods, 90% with female single parent, 7% with both parents, and 2% with male single parent.



Table 31: Non-Homeless Accommodation Before/After Support 2002–03—DV

% OF ALL SUPPORT PERIODS	OWN HOME		RENTAL		PUBLIC HOUSING		INSTITUTIONAL		OTHER		TOTAL		% NOT LIVING WITH PARTNER
	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	A
Single Male under 25	5	4	48	64	23	12	15	13	10	7	100	100	91
Single Male over 25	22	24	54	41	19	27	2	3	3	5	100	100	65
Single Female under 25	4	3	65	60	25	28	3	3	4	6	100	100	73
Single Female over 25	23	19	45	44	30	30	2	3	2	3	100	100	68
Couples	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Family													
Couple	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Male Single Parent	10	6	40	50	45	44	2	0	3	0	100	100	68
Female Single Parent	18	13	50	48	30	34	1	1	2	3	100	100	77
Children	17	13	49	48	31	34	1	1	2	3	100	100	74
Other	22	18	42	38	27	36	4	4	6	4	100	100	85
Total	18	14	49	48	30	33	1	2	2	3	100	100	77

Public Housing includes Community Housing, Rental includes private rental and boarding in private home.

Support Period where client type is unknown is distributed across client types dependent upon client type distribution.

Reasons for seeking assistance by children based on a total 74,100 child support periods, 90% with female single parent, 7% with both parents, and 2% with male single parent.

Table 32: Type of Accommodation Before/After Support 2002–03—Non DV

% OF ALL SUPPORT PERIODS	BOARDING HOUSE		FRIENDS OR FAMILY		SAAP		IMPROVISED DWELLING		NON-HOMELESS ACCOMMODATION		NO INFORMATION		TOTAL	
	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A
Single Male under 25	5	4	19	10	20	11	8	1	28	21	20	52	100	100
Single Male over 25	12	9	5	3	16	8	16	4	32	22	18	53	100	100
Single Female under 25	4	3	24	13	19	12	4	1	33	27	15	45	100	100
Single Female over 25	7	5	8	4	16	11	8	2	45	35	17	42	100	100
Couples	11	9	11	4	8	7	13	2	38	29	18	49	100	100
Family														
Couple	11	5	10	3	11	6	6	1	53	42	10	42	100	100
Male Single Parent	10	6	10	4	12	7	8	1	49	37	11	46	100	100
Female Single Parent	5	3	10	4	17	11	2	0	55	43	11	39	100	100
Children	6	3	10	4	16	11	3	0	55	42	11	39	100	100
Other	5	2	20	10	14	9	9	3	38	30	15	46	100	100
Total	8	5	13	6	17	10	9	2	38	29	16	47	100	100

Boarding house includes rooming house, hostel, hotel or caravan. Friends or family includes rent free in house/flat. SAAP includes SAAP or other emergency housing. Improved Dwellings includes car/tent/park/street/squat. Non-Homeless Accommodation includes own home, boarding in a private home, private rental, public or community housing, institutional, and other.

Support Period where client type is unknown is distributed across client types dependent upon client type distribution.

Reasons for seeking assistance by children based on a total 74,100 child support periods, 90% with female single parent, 7% with both parents, and 2% with male single parent.

Table 33: Non-Homeless Accommodation Before/After Support 2002–03—Non DV

% OF ALL SUPPORT PERIODS	OWN HOME		RENTAL		PUBLIC HOUSING		INSTITUTIONAL		OTHER		TOTAL		% NOT LIVING WITH PARTNER
	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	A
Single Male under 25	1	1	64	63	7	12	21	15	7	8	100	100	94
Single Male over 25	2	2	54	49	15	24	25	19	4	6	100	100	92
Single Female under 25	2	2	71	69	10	16	10	8	8	7	100	100	89
Single Female over 25	7	7	49	44	27	35	14	10	4	5	100	100	86
Couples	5	4	74	65	12	24	4	3	5	4	100	100	97
Family													
Couple	3	4	74	57	16	35	2	1	5	3	100	100	96
Male Single Parent	3	3	73	57	15	35	3	3	5	2	100	100	87
Female Single Parent	5	4	65	53	23	38	2	2	4	4	100	100	86
Children	5	4	66	54	22	37	2	2	5	3	100	100	87
Other	3	2	68	57	16	30	5	5	9	7	100	100	88
Total	3	3	62	56	16	27	13	9	5	5	100	100	90

Public Housing includes Community Housing, Rental includes private rental and boarding in private home.

Support Period where client type is unknown is distributed across client types dependent upon client type distribution.

Reasons for seeking assistance by children based on a total 74,100 child support periods, 90% with female single parent, 7% with both parents, and 2% with male single parent.



## 9. Administrative and Other Costs

### 9.1 Legal System Costs

The key calculations for Legal System Costs are outlined below.

In some cases, due to data constraints, NSW Bureau of Crime statistics or other jurisdictional specific data

is extrapolated across the country using ABS population weights. The population proportions in the Table below (from ABS 3239 as at end June 2003) form the basis of these extrapolations.

STATE	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	ACT	NT	TOTAL
Population	6.69	4.92	3.80	1.53	1.95	0.48	0.32	0.20	19.88

#### 9.1.1 Perpetrator Incarceration Costs

Where possible, data from each of the State and Territories was sought in relation to the number of incarcerations for offences that were committed as DV. In the short time that was available to the jurisdictions to respond to the data request, some indicated that the data would be next to impossible to produce without devoting considerable time and resources to interrogating the supporting material for each and every case. This would be necessary because the current data that is generally collected on incarcerations is focussed on the offence type and conviction (eg. sexual assault, deprivation of liberty etc) rather than also noting the circumstances in which the offence occurred, such as a DV incident.

Given that this data is not readily available, it is necessary to devise an alternative approach to costing DV incarcerations. As noted in the following section on police incident reports, DV related offences are recorded in NSW for seven principle offence categories. Given that the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics also publishes total incident reports for these same offence categories, it is possible to determine the age of offence types that are DV related.

Unfortunately, no dataset exists which tracks incarcerated individuals from the police report incident stage through to final conviction (with a 'DV' identifier). However, using a second best approach, if one applies the proportions of DV related incident reports to the total number of offenders charged and incarcerated against the same offence types, an approximation of the likely number of DV related incarcerations is possible. In NSW, there is a relatively consistent set of categories of offence types that enable the number of incident reports to be aligned with the numbers of individuals charged, incarcerated, and/or found guilty but not incarcerated. Using the NSW Criminal Courts Statistics 2002 report, if one adds the relevant lower and higher court statistics together, it is possible to obtain the total number of incarcerations/convictions against the following seven offence types: Murder; Attempted murder; Assault; Sexual assault; Indecent assault, act of indecency & other sexual offences; Abduction and kidnapping; and Other offences against the person.

When the DV proportions in the police incident report data is applied to the total incarcerations for the seven offence categories, an estimate of annual incarcerations for DV can be made. Some of these offence types however carry average prison terms longer than 12 months, therefore it is not possible to simply add up all of the incarcerations in 2002–03 and multiply them by an average prison/day cost estimate.

It is important to consider that costs in 2002–03 are also being borne in relation to previous DV incarcerations for offences with prison terms longer than 12 months. The average prison terms for the seven offence categories are:

OFFENCE	AVERAGE TERM (MONTHS)
Murder	162.6
Attempted murder	27.6
Assault	20.5
Sexual assault	41.7
Indecent assault & other	19.5
Abduction and kidnapping	35.6
Other offences (eg. deprivation of liberty)	12

Therefore if one assumes that the rate of incarceration for each offence type per year is broadly consistent across time (at least for the longest of the average incarceration periods), it is possible to take account of the degree of previous incarcerations (prisoner time) overlapping with the newly incarcerated perpetrators in the 2002–03 year. This then produces a total number of incarcerated days in NSW in 2002–03 for new and existing DV perpetrators.

Taking this estimate of incarcerated days and appropriately scaling it for other States and Territories generates a total number of incarcerated days due to DV in Australia of 1,155,351.

Then, by multiplying the number of incarcerated days by the cost of an incarcerated day from the Review of Government Service Provision 2004<sup>27</sup> of \$200 (nb includes both recurrent and capital costs), a national estimate of DV incarceration of **\$231 million** is generated.

This estimate is subject to some significant caveats. As mentioned, there is no readily available dataset which tracks perpetrators through the criminal justice system with a 'domestic violence' identifier. As a result, our estimate, which is based on the percentage of known DV incident reports serving as a useful proxy for incarcerations, is not the most robust estimate that might be able to be produced given more time and resources to jurisdictional data collection agencies. That said, the estimate is the best available given the current datasets at our disposal.

### 9.1.2 Court System Costs Dealing With Domestic Violence Perpetrators

As was the case with incarceration costs, the data from each of the States and Territories for perpetrators being dealt with by the court system was not amenable to analysis on the basis of the circumstances surrounding the offence. That is, while numbers of defendants in total may be able to be sourced, an analysis of each case would be required to determine whether the particular offence or assault charge was against an intimate partner in a DV situation.

Given that this would have necessitated the commitment of significant resources by each jurisdiction, an alternative approach similar to that adopted for incarcerations has been applied.

Using the same DV proportions in the police incident report data for the seven categories of offences used in the incarceration data from NSW, new estimates of the total number of charged offenders (i.e. those appearing in court) for DV specific related offences is able to be generated. Taking this estimate, and scaling it for other States and Territories, generates a total number of DV related perpetrators appearing in court in Australia of 26,734.

In order to determine the court system costs of dealing with DV perpetrators, an average unit cost per perpetrator is also required. Unfortunately, per unit data costs for DV perpetrators does not exist, and would be extremely time consuming to ex-post calculate, even with full access to individual court case files.

The best approach that can be adopted in these circumstances is to utilise the unit cost figure of \$530 from Table 6.1 of the Productivity Commission 2004 "Review of Government Service Provision". This figure takes total criminal court costs and divides through by the number of defendants. Applying this unit cost estimate to the total number of DV perpetrators generates a national court cost estimate of **\$14.2 million**.

### 9.1.3 Private Legal Costs Faced by Perpetrator

The lack of perpetrator data requires that we utilise the court perpetrator appearance data calculated above to estimate the number of offence appearances (assuming an average appearance across all offence types of 1 day) for the key criminal court charge types.

<sup>27</sup> Productivity Commission 2004 "Review of Government Service Provision". Chapter 'Justice' Part 3.

Using the figures obtained from the Commonwealth Attorney General guidelines for charge out rates of senior counsel and solicitors during the Royal Commissions into HIH and the Building Commission (i.e. minimum of \$1600 and \$1184 per day respectively), and also assuming that senior counsel will always appear in murder or attempted murder trials, we generate a private legal bill for perpetrators of **\$31.7 million**.

#### 9.1.4 Police Costs

Where possible data from each State and Territory was sought in relation to the number of police call outs or incident reports which were specifically flagged as being related to DV. In the short time that was available to the jurisdictions to respond to the data request, some indicated that the data may be available, while others indicated that this data was not public, nor able to be released.

However, the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics was able to provide information on police incident reports for seven principle offence categories. This data also expressly identified the offence as being a DV incident. This figure is the best approximation available for actual police call outs (noting that it will be inflated to some extent by 'walk-in' reports of DV to the police station).

This data revealed that the total number of DV incidence reports in NSW for 2002 was 27,731. In order to determine the cost of addressing each incident, the Henderson (2000b) unit cost estimate for 'police costs' was applied to the total number of incidents to arrive at an estimate of total costs for NSW. This estimate was then appropriately scaled for other States and Territories to generate a national cost estimate of **\$3.5 million**.

#### 9.1.5 Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs) and Family Court Custody Orders

Where possible, data from each of the States and Territories was sought in relation to the number of AVOs (or similar court orders) that were issued specifically in relation to intimate partners. While the name of the court order may differ across jurisdictions, its purpose is generally speaking the same. AVOs principally serve to prevent a known person (eg. an intimate partner or other person) from intimidating or stalking the applicant. They can also include quite specific restrictions on the known person entering the victim's home or workplace, or contacting/approaching the victim.

While for many jurisdictions, providing total AVOs issued was not a difficulty, providing a DV specific breakdown, as against other known persons, was not as straightforward, at least in the time available for the jurisdictions to respond to the request. The NSW Bureau of Crime statistics however provided a readily accessible breakdown of AVOs into a DV and 'other personal' category.

In a similar manner to the incarceration and police call out estimates, the national figure for the number of AVOs was constructed to give an estimate of 56,262. In order to determine the cost of applying for, considering and issuing each AVOs, the Henderson (2000b) unit cost estimate for 'judicial/court costs' was applied to the total number of AVOs to generate a national estimate of costs associated with DV AVOs of **\$6.4 million**.

This estimate is likely to be a reasonable estimate on account of the robust underlying data on DV AVOs at a jurisdictional level (noting that for current purposes, a NSW estimate has been used). However it is unclear whether a per person unit cost estimate of judicial costs from Henderson (2000b) will represent the best approximation of unit costs specifically for AVOs. It is plausible that a lower unit cost might be likely, given that other court/judicial matters are likely to consume more time than would a consideration of an AVO.

In relation to Family Court Divorce and Custody Orders, we have taken the total number of divorces and child orders from the family court (54,032) and (71,498) and used a study on divorce causes (Australian Institute of Family Studies, Table 3) to generate a proportion that are due to DV. These proportions were used to calculate total legal costs of these actions, assuming a half day use of a solicitor, and half of the cases are paid by legal aid. This generates a total annual cost for family court related matters of **\$11 million**.

#### 9.1.6 Coronial Costs

Data from the States and Territories was not able to be sourced for the number and/or length of coroners' time devoted to investigating DV related cases. This sort of split does not appear to be available without analysis of specific case data. As an alternative approach, by using data from the Productivity Commission 2004 "Review of Government Service Provision" for coronial costs nationally, and applying that expenditure to the number of potential coronial inquests (i.e. using appropriate death figures from ABS 3303), we can multiply our total number of DV deaths (570) to generate a national coronial cost estimate of **\$0.116 million**. While it is highly likely that this is a significant under-estimate, in the absence of more robust data of which we can be reasonably confident, it would not be reasonable to arbitrarily scale up this figure. In this sense, the estimate is a very conservative figure in the report.

## 9.2 Other and Administrative Costs

The category of 'other and administrative costs' is a diverse mix of large and small cost items. It captures items ranging from counselling services, to interpreter services, as well as premature funeral costs, perpetrator programs, and carer costs.

### 9.2.1 Counselling Services

Where possible, data from each of the State and Territory Governments was sought in relation to the number and/or value of counselling services funded specifically for DV related victims. In addition, some of the key Government and Non-Government funded providers of these services were consulted.<sup>26</sup>

In all instances, access to comprehensive data on counselling services provided for DV victims was simply not possible. The major difficulty is determining how much of a more 'generalised' grant or service provision is directly attributable to a 'domestic violence' call or counselling session. While some of the jurisdictions provide detailed public data on the number and quantum of Government grants provided to counselling service providers, it is the exception rather than the rule that a 'domestic violence' identifier or breakdown is recorded.

This is in no way a criticism. It is entirely understandable why the information is recorded in public sector accounts and by service providers in this way. The vast majority of service providers are delivering counselling services for a broad suite of clients. Some of the services will be purely between intimate partners, while others will be for family violence, and yet others will be for broader family support or general family/parenting/problem child crisis support.

#### Government Funded Services

Many jurisdictions provide a listing of service providers who received grants for counselling and community/family type services, and some provide public breakdowns of the size of each and every grant in appendices to the Annual Reports of the relevant Family/Health Department. In NSW, the Department of Community Services provides an appendix in their Annual Report with quite detailed information on the Community Services Grants Program. Under the range of grants provided there is an explicit category which separates out only funding for 'Family and Individual Support' type counselling service support.

By making an assessment of the 'likely' nature of services provided under each grant heading, 228 particular grants were 'flagged' as being of potential relevance because they covered family/domestic violence support services. In reviewing each of these grants, and acknowledging that an accurate assessment can only be made by the Department surveying each of the 228 organisations, it was considered that of these remaining services, as much as 75% of the service is potentially being devoted to DV support.

It was considered that given that in our review, all of the explicit child assistance and children services had been removed from the list (and noting that those services would be likely

to take the lion's share of service provision for such purposes) the remaining service providers would be more likely to have a predominant role in addressing DV counselling needs. While in the absence of a detailed survey this estimate can not be proved nor disproved, it is as reasonable an approximation as possible under the circumstances.

Taking 75% of the value of Government funding to this shortened list of counselling service providers, and then allocating across the States and Territories, generates a total value of counselling services provided to DV victims of **\$50.2 million**.

#### Non-Government Funded Services and Volunteer Contribution

While the data on Government funded services is not accurate to our level of detail, at a higher level, it is entirely accurate as all funding from the Government sector must be accurately recorded and audited. However, for the private contributions and/or donations to the counselling service providers, the accounting procedures are varied. In most cases, the major counselling service providers will have more detailed audited accounts, but for these larger organisations, the private donations are effectively subsumed into the pool of funding for all of the many services they provide.

In this sense, none of the larger providers would be able to identify the apportionment of private funds and track their flow through to specific program areas without considerable investigation on their part. What did emerge from these conversations was that for many, it was felt that it were more likely that any grant from Government for family/domestic violence counselling would for the most part fund that activity, with private donations being directed towards other activities of the entity which did not receive direct Government support.

Given this, it was considered that even for the larger service providers, private donations were more than likely to be a small component of the overall funding pool. As one ventures further down the chain to the many smaller providers at a community centre level, it is likely that the Government support represents closer to 100% of their funding (notwithstanding that very small-scale fund raising drives may be a feature of some community centre funding).

With this variation in mind, we constructed three possible scenarios. The first scenario involved funding of domestic violence counselling from the non-Government sector of 5% of the Government contribution, the second at 10%, and a more extreme outlier of 50%. These three possibilities implied a non-Government sector contribution of **\$2.5 million, \$5 million and \$25 million** on top of the \$50.2 million Government sector contribution across the country.

<sup>26</sup> Some of the key provider organisations contacted included: Relationships Australia, No To Violence, Lifeline, Benevolent Society, Barnardos, Anglicare, Centrecare.



The other factor that was investigated with the key service providers was the degree to which volunteers contributed labour 'in kind' to the counselling service. In nearly all instances, the service providers indicated that while volunteers may often be a feature of their general assistance counselling lines, referrals to specialised and salaried experts in counselling were the norm. It was pointed out that DV counselling is by its nature a very serious and specialised service for which it is not usually appropriate for a volunteer to provide beyond taking the initial call and referring to a specialised counsellor.

In terms of establishing the degree to which the front line or initial call is taken by volunteer labour time, we again suffer from the data recording problem noted throughout this section. Instead of presuming that an accurate figure would be possible to establish even with a significant amount of time and resources, we have assumed that the volunteer labour time contribution may constitute 10% of the Government funded contribution. Given the discussions with service providers, it would be difficult to sustain a higher figure, but it is possible that even this figure represents an upper bound of the actual value of the volunteer labour contributed. Using this 10% figure, generates an annual volunteer cost of around \$5 million.

Together, by taking the Government funded contribution, and a modest 10% contribution from private donations, with a 10% contribution from front line volunteer labour time, we generate a national counselling services cost for DV of around **\$60.2 million**. This represents quite a high figure for national counselling services provided only for domestic violence victims and is effectively a 'top-down' estimate of the cost.

However, as a comparison, while the Henderson (2000b) study utilised a bottom-up approach to generate an estimate for counselling services of around \$22 million, as will be detailed in the next section, both Henderson and this report generate reasonably similar proportions of total spending on perpetrator programs as against victim counselling services (i.e. 6 to 9%).

### 9.2.2 Perpetrator Programs

As was the case with counselling services, lack of specific data besets this aspect of the response to DV. There was a comprehensive study of DV perpetrator programs conducted in 1999 on behalf of the Commonwealth Government titled "Ending Domestic Violence?—Programmes for Perpetrators". This study canvassed the purpose, range and number of perpetrator programs across the country. No updated national figure on the number of perpetrator programs has since been prepared.

However, in consultations with the key non-Government DV program providers, it became quite evident that many considered that the number of participants in such programs had grown quite strongly since the 1999 data. The Victorian based 'No To Violence' organisation provided a listing of 32 providers of such programs in that State alone, and while there is unfortunately no readily accessible dataset on the number of participants in these programs, in Victoria at least, there may be as many as 350 perpetrators in programs in any given week.

The 'No To Violence' organisation, as a peak representative organisation in Victoria for the prevention of male family violence, appeared to have the best readily available consolidated dataset on programs running in their particular jurisdiction. While other datasets may be available in other jurisdictions, not all will have such data, and as a result we have used the estimate for around 350 perpetrators per week for Victoria and scaled the numbers across the other jurisdictions, generating a total number of participants in programs in any given week across the country of 1,415 individuals.<sup>29</sup>

The methodology to calculate a cost of providing such programs is best created using a ground up approach. Firstly assume that of the 1,415 participants each week, a single facilitator will be required, and assuming that say 20 people at most can be in the same program, we thus require around 71 facilitators across the country. If we also assume that a participant attends one session per week and the program facilitator is on the average wage (including employer on-costs of 15.5%—and the facilitator spends half their time preparing for the weekly session/or alternatively half the number of facilitators are required) then we have a weekly facilitator labour cost bill of \$40,133. If we also assume that labour costs represent roughly 70% of total program delivery costs (i.e. 30% of costs make contribution for venue and course materials), scaling up the labour costs and multiplying by 52 weeks generates an annual cost of **\$2.2 million**.

If there is scope for future assessments of perpetrator programs along the lines of the 1999 study, it would be worthwhile to conduct specific survey research into the make-up of the costs of these programs, given the serious lack of consolidated data which is even more problematic than victim counselling services.

### 9.2.3 Interpreter Services

Our analysis of the unit record data was able to show the proportion of DV victims who would seek some sort of support from crisis, legal, financial, or police assistance. Together, support for physical or sexual DV may be sought by around 28–29% of victims.

To generate the number of victims utilising interpreter services, we can first take our overall estimate of the number of DV victims suffering from physical or sexual abuse in the past 12 months of 251,341.

If we then take account of the fact that these individuals will experience a certain number of DV incidents per year, and we then take account of the service use figure of 28 or 29% (i.e. physical or sexual), we can show that potentially 225,361 incidents may require service support. Utilising the census figure of 2.3% of the population potentially requiring interpreter services due to not being able to speak English either 'not well' or 'not at all', we can also generate an estimate of the number of service use incidents that may require interpreter services of 5,183.

Given that we also know the average costs (as at 5 February 2004) of using telephone and face-to-face interpreter services from the Translating & Interpreting Service, we can formulate a per person cost for each of these victims. The Henderson (2000b) study quoted previous research referring to a typical 'need' for interpreter services of 9 hours.

Taking this figure, and assuming that of the 9 hours the first hour represents the first unexpected contact from the service providers perspective, and thus is more likely to require the telephone interpreter service (averaging the business hours and after hours charge out rates) a cost per person is \$112.80. The subsequent 8 hours are assumed to be able to be better planned with a face-to-face interpreter service, generating a cost per person for these remaining hours of \$748.

Taken together, and multiplying through by the number of incidents requiring interpreter services, we estimate that the total cost Australia wide of interpreter services for domestic violence victims is **\$4.5 million**. This estimate is significantly higher than that generated by Henderson (2000b), and the differential would appear to be generated by two sources.

The first is the per hour cost of interpreter services, which are more than double in this report. They are taken from the most recent charge out rates, and thus changes in charging regimes over time will have played a part, as well as the fact that this report has also included a mix of face-to-face and telephone support. The other factor is the number of 'incidents' assumed to require assistance. This report utilises updated census data from 2001, and also has an underlying number of DV victims (Physical/Sexual Assault—251,341) and incidents, which is higher than the figure used by Henderson (2000b) of 152,300.

## 9.2.4 Funeral Costs

The 'additional' cost of funerals borne by family and friends of domestic violence victims is based on the total number of deaths due to DV (570). However there are some funeral cost savings that must be taken into account from victims of DV who died in previous years would have died in this year had they not suffered from domestic violence.

The BTRE (2000) calculated a weighted average cost of a funeral across all States and Territories, to estimate an Australian total average cost of \$3,200 for 1996. Assuming a 2.5% inflation rate (thus an average funeral cost of around \$3,804) the total cost of additional funerals is **\$1.27 million** in 2002–03.

## 9.2.5 Imputed Carer Cost and Paid Care

The 'additional' cost of care created as a result of a fatality due to extreme DV, can be met either by paid regular home help, or alternatively by relatives. Utilising the number of DV related deaths, and assuming 35%<sup>30</sup> had dependent children requiring care, and of these, half the cases had a remaining partner able to care for the children (i.e. not all DV deaths will see the perpetrator in jail), the remainder required care of 10 years on average. Taking an inflated care cost estimate (originally from Henderson 2000b) then gives us an annual cost of paid (and imputed) care of **\$26.2 million**.

This estimate is significantly higher than Henderson's 2000b figure of \$2.9 million. However, two key features drive this difference. The first is that in our report, we have included both paid formal care, and imputed care (valued at formal care rates). That said, this impact will be the smaller of the two. The key difference is the underlying number of DV related deaths. As Henderson notes in her report, the number she uses is strictly those deaths related to homicide only. The base line figure of 65, is thus significantly lower than our number of 570 (which is both higher for homicides and also includes deaths associated with suicide, drug, alcohol and tobacco deaths attributable to DV).

<sup>30</sup> Henderson (2000b)

## 10. Transfer Payments

Aside from payments made in relation to victim compensation legislation in some jurisdictions, there is no data currently collected which would enable a robust estimate to be generated for transfer payments made as a result of domestic violence. No data on the Commonwealth and State suite of transfer payments (eg. for income and disability, housing/rent or retraining/study) enable any identification of the circumstances that triggered the ‘eligibility’ for the transfer payment.

This serious data deficiency creates significant problems in terms of producing a robust estimate for transfers made in relation to domestic violence. An alternative approach is necessary, so that we can have at least a reasonable figure on which to base out ‘actual’ economic cost of such transfers. After all, transfer payments as such are not a net cost to society, as they represent a shift of consumption power from one group of individuals to another in the community. If the

act of taxation did not create distortions and inefficiencies in the economy, then transfers could be made without a net cost to the community. However, as will be discussed at the end of this chapter, the need to impose taxation in order to facilitate transfer payments generates a cost to the community.

In relation to first determining the overall size of the transfer payments related to domestic violence, a way forward given the data difficulties is to utilise analysis of the probability of a domestic violence victim being in receipt of income support, and apply this relative probability to a 2002 Melbourne University study (Y-Ping and Wilkins 2002) of the ‘reliance’ of the general population (aged 15–64 years) on income support.

This study shows that the reliance on income support for some selected payments in the general population is:

PAYMENT TYPE	% RELIANCE
Unemployment	10.2
Other Benefits	2.9
Sole Parent	7.3
Other Pensions	14.9

Our own estimates from a cross-sectional analysis of the WSS found that if a woman experienced physical violence in the past 3 years she had a 35.5% increased chance of receiving some form of government benefits (including family payments).<sup>31</sup>

While these results would be biased upwards if women who receive some form of government benefits are more prone to experience physical domestic violence—using cross-sectional analysis it is not possible to separate out the cause and effect. Furthermore, due to the structure of the survey it is not possible to determine what type of benefits they are receiving and what level of government benefits that they receive.

However it is quite possible that the women receive benefits for a period of 3 years (after which experiencing physical domestic violence is no longer a statistically significant determinant of whether the woman receives government benefits).

We also know the proportional distribution of payment recipient<sup>32</sup> numbers for the following payments across the general population: Austudy & Abstudy; Sickness Allowance; Mobility Allowance; Carer Payment; Carer Allowance; NewStart; Rent Assistance; Disability Support; Special Benefit; and Crisis Payment.

If we take these recipient number proportions for the general population, and using the Melbourne University ‘reliance’ figures (scaled up by 35.5% to reflect the relatively greater probability of the domestic violence victim population being on benefits), calculate reliance for our domestic violence population of 420,980 in 2002–03, we can estimate total payment amounts for the DV population.

However, we must then subtract the total payment amounts that would ordinarily have occurred for a population of 420,980 to generate the ‘induced’ additional payments because of DV. Detail for each payment type is described below.

### 10.1 Income Support

The total value of income support transfer payments (including for study and/or mobility) for our population of domestic violence victims totals around \$2.3 billion in 2002–03.

The magnitude of the ‘induced’ value of payments as result of domestic violence for this same population is \$600 million. All of these costs are borne by society through explicit Government transfer payments.

<sup>31</sup> However, it was not found that experience of any form of domestic violence (physical assault or threat, sexual assault or threat, stalking or emotional abuse from a current or previous partner) in the past 12 months had a statistically significant impact on the probability of the woman receiving government benefits

<sup>32</sup> Centrelink Data Request—Recipient Figures for those on income support <10 years—Austudy, Abstudy, Mobility Allowance, Rent Assistance, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment/Allowance, Newstart, Sickness Allowance, Special Benefit.

Table 34: Payments Induced as a Result of DV, 2002–03

PAYMENT TYPE	AMOUNT PAID TO INDIVIDUALS IN THE DV POPULATION (\$M)	PAYMENTS INDUCED AS A RESULT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (\$M)
Austudy & and Abstudy	79	21
Sickness Allowance	14	4
Mobility Allowance	12	3
Carer Payment	100	26
Carer Allowance	78	20
NewStart	528	138
Rent Assistance	24	6
Disability Support	929	242
Sole Parenting Payment	501	131
Special/Crisis Benefit	33	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>2298</b>	<b>600</b>

### 10.1.1 Austudy and Abstudy

To qualify for the Austudy Payment, a person must be undertaking qualifying study and be aged 25 or over. The payment is subject to assets and income tests, and in circumstances where the DV victim is able to remain in their home and the asset is in their name, the asset test potentially may prevent them from accessing the payment.

To qualify for the Abstudy Payment, a person must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent according to the Abstudy definition of Aboriginality; studying an approved course at an approved education institution; not receiving other government assistance for study. The income and assets tests are the same as for Austudy in circumstances such as DV where the victim as a student cannot be classified as a dependent.

The Austudy payment amount for a single without children and a single with children is \$318.50 and \$417.40 per fortnight respectively. The Abstudy payment amount for a single without children and a single with children is \$389.20 and \$421 per fortnight respectively.

To the extent that individuals require retraining or education to enhance their job prospects as a result of leaving or moving away from a violent perpetrator, our methodology suggests that around \$79 million of support may be being provided (of which the induced amount is \$21 million).

### 10.1.2 Sickness Allowance

- This benefit is available to people who are employed and who are temporarily unable to work because of a medical condition. The person must have a job to return to and this benefit is also means tested. This payment accounted for less than 1% of payments for people with a disability in 2000–01.
- It appears that there is no specific time limit on this allowance, so long as there is a job or study to return to after having recovered. The 2000–01 FACS annual report states that \$96m was paid out in sickness allowance payments, and that 10,942 clients were serviced.
- The sickness allowance payment for a single without children and a single with children is \$389.20 and \$421 per fortnight respectively.

To the extent that individuals require short-term income support as a result of a DV incident, with the prospect of returning to the same place of employment, our methodology suggests that around \$14 million of support may be being provided (of which the induced amount is \$4 million).

### 10.1.3 Mobility Allowance

This benefit provides help to people with disabilities who are undertaking voluntary work, paid work, vocational training or any combination of these and cannot use public transport without extra help. This allowance is not means tested. The Mobility allowance payment is the equivalent of \$68 per fortnight.

The 2000–01 FACS annual report states that 81% of clients receiving the DSP received another form of income, and 54% of those receiving the Sickness Allowance had other source of income.

To the extent that individuals are disabled and on support through the disability support pension as a result of an extreme domestic violence assault, our methodology suggests that around \$12 million of support may be being provided (of which the induced amount is \$3 million). Note, larger support is potentially flowing into this category than our methodology suggests, however, it would most likely be at the expense of our relatively higher estimates of Newstart and Disability Support assistance.

#### **10.1.4 Carer Payment & Carer Allowance**

These benefits are paid to people who are caring for a relative or dependant who are not able to care for themselves.

The Carer Allowance is an income supplement paid to someone who lives with, and provides daily care and attention to, a person with a disability. The Carer Payment is income support for a person providing constant care for a person who has a physical, intellectual or psychiatric disability who is also on income support.

The Carer Allowance is \$90.10 per fortnight, and the Carer Payment is \$464.20 per fortnight.

To the extent that a domestic violence victim is disabled and requires full time care and assistance, this payment will be an important income support mechanism. Using our methodology around \$178 million in support may be being made (of which the induced amount is \$46 million).

#### **10.1.5 Newstart**

Newstart is paid to individuals who are unemployed, and capable of undertaking and available for work or for undertaking an activity to improve employment prospects, or temporarily incapacitated for work. The individual must be aged 21 and registered as unemployed. To the extent that recipients are incapacitated for work, they can only remain on Newstart subject to medical certificates.

The Newstart payment is \$389.20 per fortnight for a single. To the extent that an individual requires short-term income support as a result of a DV incident, either affecting their work performance such that they are dismissed and need to search for alternative employment, or they are injured for a short period of time (but not requiring sickness allowance), our methodology suggests that around \$528 million of support may be being provided (of which the induced amount is \$138 million).

#### **10.1.6 Rent Assistance**

Rent Assistance is a payment added on to the pension, allowance or benefit of eligible individuals who rent in the private rental market. Rent Assistance is generally not payable if the individual has a tenancy agreement with a State/Territory Housing Authority.

This benefit would apply mainly to people on the DSP. The maximum benefit for a single person is \$95.40 per fortnight, but to access this amount, rent must be over \$212 per fortnight. To the extent that a domestic violence victim is injured, or put out of work, or abandoned following a DV incident, and needs to draw assistance of some sort from the Government, it is probable that rent assistance may also be paid. Using our methodology, it is possible that \$24 million of support may be being made (of which the induced amount is \$6 million).

#### **10.1.7 Disability Support**

The DSP is for people permanently unable to work due to physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairments, or for those who are permanently blind. Like most welfare payments, it is means tested and different rates apply to those under 21 years of age and those who are a couple and both receive the DSP. The DSP accounted for 81.2% of payments to people with a disability in 2000–01.

DSP applies to individuals who cannot work for two or more years. As a result, it will be in cases of quite severe physical or sustained emotional/psychological DV, that DSP applies to DV victims. The DSP is paid at \$464.20 per fortnight. Using our methodology, it is possible that \$929 million of support is being made (of which the induced amount is \$242 million).

#### **10.1.8 Sole Parenting Payment**

The Sole Parenting Payment is paid to individuals who have a dependent child under the age of 16 to help with the costs of raising that child. The payment is paid to only one member of a couple. The payment is subject to assets and income tests, and in circumstances where the domestic violence victim is able to remain in their home and the asset is in their name, the asset test potentially may prevent them from accessing the payment.

If the individual has been receiving the payment for at least six months and their youngest child is aged six or over then the individual is required to attend a “participation interview”. If their youngest child is aged 13 and over then the individual is required to attend a “participation interview” and satisfy a part-time participation requirement in one of a broad range of activities.

The Sole Parenting Payment is paid at \$464.20 per fortnight. Using our methodology, it is possible that \$501 million of support is being paid (of which the induced amount is \$131 million).

### 10.1.9 Special Benefit And Crisis Payment

According to the Centrelink information booklet, the 'special benefit' payment is provided to individuals in financial hardship and unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for themselves and dependants due to reasons beyond their control. They must not be able to get any other income support payment. For short-term payments, the individuals available funds must not be more than the applicable fortnightly Newstart or Youth Allowance rate. For long-term payments, available funds must be no more than \$5000.

Subject to various approval guidelines, this payment is a discretionary payment from FACS to affected individuals. The payment rate is generally made at the NewStart pay rate of \$389.20 per fortnight.

The 'crisis payment' is a short-term payment of up to one week's equivalent income support payment (paid a maximum of 4 times per year). To receive the payment the individual must be qualified for a social security pension or benefit and be in severe financial hardship; have left their home and be unable to return home because of an extreme circumstance, such as DV and have established or intend to establish a new home.

For both these payments, the methodology we have used for other payment types is not applicable as both these payments are no regular/recurring income support, or are discretionary. Therefore the 'reliance' estimates from the Melbourne University study will over-estimate usage. As an alternative, we must assume a particular usage.

In relation to special benefit, because this payment is discretionary for victims in ongoing 'dire' circumstances and the payment amount is at Newstart rates, if we assume that say only 5% of our estimates of domestic violence related Newstart recipients receive the payment, we generate an annual cost of \$25 million (of which the induced amount is \$9 million). Given the likely use of this payment by DV victims, this may be an under-estimate, and as such would represent a conservative estimate.

In relation to the 'crisis payment', if we assume that this is sought by up to 5% of our estimate of DV victims who suffer from physical or sexual assault, and we also assume that they receive the maximum number of payments (i.e. 4 weeks worth per year), we generate an annual cost of \$8 million for this payment (of which the induced amount is \$1 million).

## 10.2 Victim Compensation

Where possible, data from each of the State and Territory Governments was sought in relation to the number and/or value of compensation payouts to victims of domestic violence crimes. However, in a similar manner to cost breakdowns for incarcerations and offence charges, it was not common for consolidated datasets to exist. However, in NSW in 2002–03, 5,340 claims were paid for a total of \$62 million in victim compensation. In the Victim Compensation Tribunal Chairperson's information documents (see reference to information/statistics appendix), it was indicated that approximately 15% of claim payments were related to domestic violence payouts. Taking this estimate, and appropriately scaling it for other States and Territories, generates a total value of domestic violence related payouts across the country of **\$27.7 million**.

The inconsistent nature of compensation regimes across the country means that it is not possible to be certain that this estimate is as robust as a full stock-take of payouts by each jurisdiction. Unfortunately, no other study has attempted to estimate this cost, mainly on account of its new status as a cost item due to fairly recent legislation in some jurisdictions.

## 10.3 Lost Taxes

Victims and perpetrators in paid employment who are out of the workforce temporarily, or permanently due to death, disability or incarceration, will contribute less tax revenue to the Government. This lost value in wages/firm output was calculated in the Productivity section. Summarising those results, we demonstrated the following:

- Victim's lost around \$25.3 million in wage income due to absenteeism on account of injury, distress or attending court;
- Perpetrator's lost around \$78.6 million in wage income due to absenteeism on account of attending court and/or other judicial responses to their crimes;
- Employers lost around \$175.2 million in production value on account of absenteeism of the victim or perpetrator, poorer worker productivity, lost management productivity in managing the absenteeism, and direct worker hiring/retraining costs;
- Society also lost around \$151.7 million in output value/wages on account of homicide and premature death of the victims/perpetrators.

In terms of allocating these losses to either personal income or company income, we only included the employer losses as lost company revenue, with the remainder allocated as lost personal income in one form or another.

Applying the personal tax rate schedule in 2002–03 (see table below) produces an average personal tax rate for someone on the average weekly income in that year of 20.2%. We also know that the vast majority of company income, while taxed

at 30%, roughly 80% is distributed to domestic shareholders (as franked dividends), meaning the 30% tax is rebated, with the income charged at the relevant personal tax rate.

TAX THRESHOLDS (AS AT 2002–03 FINANCIAL YEAR) INCOME RANGE (\$)	TAX RATE (%)
0–6,000	0
6,001–20,000	17
20,001–50,000	30
50,001–60,000	42
60,001 +	47

Given this, we thus apply a 20.2% tax rate to both the total loss of wage income (around \$254 million) and 80% of the company income (i.e. roughly an additional \$140 million). The 30% tax rate is applied to the remaining 20% of the company income (i.e. around \$35 million).

Together these calculations generate a total loss of tax revenue of approximately \$90.2 million. This represents taxation lost that must now be collected from remaining citizens (given no change in expenditure—i.e. for a very small tax change, unlikely to change level of demand for expenditure).

#### 10.4 Deadweight Loss Of Taxation— Payments And Administration

As discussed earlier, transfer payments (Government payments/ services and victim compensation) as such are not a net cost to society, as they represent a shift of consumption power from one group of individuals to another in the community. If the act of taxation did not create distortions and inefficiencies in the economy, then transfers could be made without a net cost to the community. However taxation does impose a deadweight loss on the economy.

The deadweight loss of taxation represents the loss of consumer and producer surplus, as a result of the imposition of a distortion to the equilibrium (society preferred) level of output and prices. Taxes alter the price and quantity of goods sold compared to what they would be if the market were not distorted, and thus lead to some diminution in the value of trade between buyers and sellers that would otherwise be enjoyed. The principal mechanism by which a deadweight loss occurs is the price induced reduction in output, removing potential trades that would benefit both buyers and sellers. In a practical sense, this distortion reveals itself a loss of efficiency in the economy, which means that raising

\$100 dollars of revenue, requires consumers and producers to give up more than \$100 of value.

For the purposes of this report, we are utilising a deadweight loss of 27.5% of each extra tax dollar that is required to be collected. The Industry Commission used this estimate in its recent report on the pharmaceuticals industry following an extensive review of the literature (Industry Commission 2003 p. 6.15–6.16).

The total extra tax dollars required to be collected include:

- the calculation for the loss of income tax victims, perpetrators and employers;
- the additional induced social welfare payments required to be paid; and
- the value of victim compensation payments and other Government services provided (eg. legal system response, counselling etc).

Additionally, total Commonwealth tax revenue in 2000–01 was \$151 billion. Total ATO spending in 2000–01 was \$1.9 billion. This implies an administration cost ratio of 1.25%. This figure is conservative because some of the taxes will have been collected by the Australian Customs Service. This amount must also be added to the 27.5% deadweight loss associated with the payment amounts themselves.

Strictly speaking, we should also include some change in costs for the administration of the welfare payment agencies. However, given that the total induced change in welfare payments is such a relatively small estimate (i.e. \$0.236 billion compared to total FACS payments of \$58.6 billion) there are unlikely to be significant cost savings in administering less payments.

The total deadweight losses are thus:

**Table 35: Deadweight Loss (\$M)**

<b>PAYMENT/ OR TAX LOSS</b>	<b>(\$M)</b>
Induced Government Payments	600
Government Services	707
Victim Compensation	28
Lost Tax Revenue	90
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>1425</b>
<b>DWL of (28.75)</b>	<b>410</b>



# 11. Calculating Long-Term Productivity Costs

## 11.1 Lost Productivity From Incarceration

The number of perpetrators incarcerated by offence in Section 9.1.1 is assumed to have the same age/sex distribution of that of perpetrators of DV. From Section 9.1.1 the average amount of time by offence is estimated.

OFFENCE	PERPETRATORS INCARCERATED	AVERAGE LENGTH OF INCARCERATION (YEARS)
Murder	29	13.6
Attempted murder	3	2.3
Assault	1472	1.7
Sexual assault	60	3.5
Indecent assault, act of indecency & other sexual offences	0	1.6
Abduction and kidnapping	11	3.0
Other offences against the person	0	1.0

The value of the lost wages is based on the average annual earnings of incarcerated perpetrators who are working in 2002–03 (ABS 6310.0) and the total lost wages is calculated by multiplying the lost wages per perpetrator by age group by the number of persons incarcerated in each age group. Finally, lost wages are discounted back to present values based on the average length of incarceration. The total cost of lost future wages due to incarceration is estimated to be \$674.7 million or \$1653 per victim.

A matrix of the expected retirement age by the current age of worker based on the participation rates at each age group—similar to life expectancy, the older the victim the less time it is expected the victim will remain in the workforce however the older the victim when they leave the workforce (see Table 36). Note that this methodology takes into account the probability that the victim is working.

## 11.2 Lost Productivity From Homicide and Premature Death

Deaths and Years of Life Lost (YLL) as calculated in Part I are distributed across more disaggregated age groups according to the experience of DV across the relevant age groups. The average YLL per person due to DV by age group is then used as the expected number of years of life lost for each age group (based on life tables in ABS 3302.0).

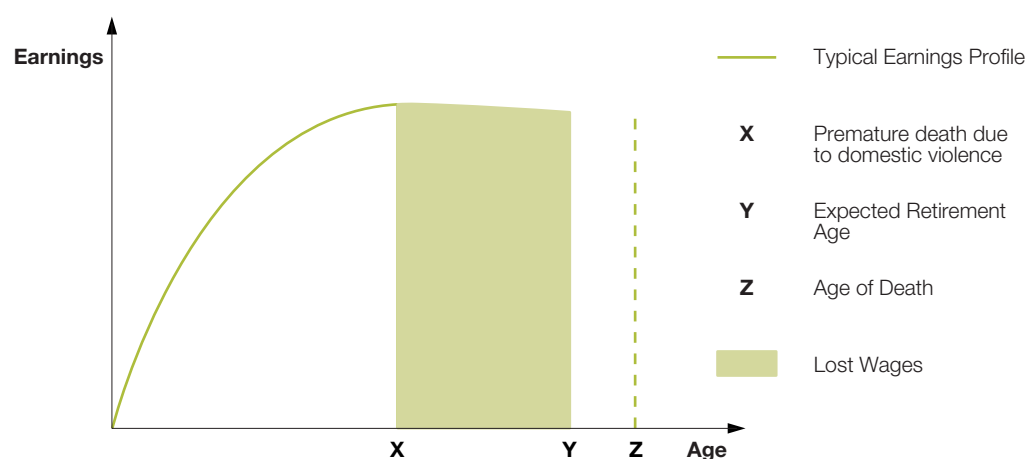
Table 36: Years Left in Labour Force by Age Group

AGE	MALES	FEMALES
15 to 19	45.9	42.6
20 to 24	40.9	37.6
25 to 29	35.9	32.8
30 to 34	30.9	28.2
35 to 39	25.9	23.2
40 to 44	21.0	18.2
45 to 49	16.0	13.2
50 to 54	11.2	8.8
55 to 59	6.9	5.0
60 to 64	3.5	2.3
65 to 69	1.4	0.8
70 and over	0.0	0.0

Consequently the expected retirement age from the workforce by age group of victim at death can be calculated (Y) and

subsequently the number of years of lost future wages per person by age group can be calculated (Y-X).

Figure 2: Lost Wages Due to Premature Death



The value of the lost wages is based on the average annual earnings of victims who are working in 2002–03 (ABS 6310.0) and the total lost wages is calculated by multiplying the lost wages per person by age group by the number of people

in each age group. Finally, lost wages are discounted back to present values. The total cost of lost future wages due to premature death of female victims is estimated to be \$604.2 million.

Table 37: Lost Future Wages Due to Premature Death of Female Victims

AGE	DEATHS	TOTAL YEARS LOST IN LABOUR FORCE	TOTAL COST (\$)
18 to 24	41	229	4,034,606
25 to 29	38	209	4,030,933
30 to 34	38	212	4,421,858
35 to 44	137	456	9,975,748
45 to 54	73	243	6,447,072
55 to 59	53	37	966,230
60 and over	192	31	857,716
<b>Total</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>1417</b>	<b>30,734,164</b>

The number of male premature deaths due to DV by age is estimated by applying the ratio between female and male victims (see Section 1) to female deaths due to DV by age by cause of death (see Part I). YLLs are estimated in the same manner however discounted by the ratio of male life

expectancy to female life expectancy at age 0. The same process described above for calculating lost wages for female victims is then repeated for male victims. The total cost of lost future wages due to premature death of female victims is estimated to be \$7.9 million.

Table 38: Lost Future Wages Due to Premature Death of Male Victims

AGE	DEATHS	TOTAL YEARS LOST IN LABOUR FORCE	TOTAL COST (\$)
18 to 24	3	34	907,197
25 to 29	3	30	874,050
30 to 34	3	31	957,219
35 to 44	10	78	2,554,008
45 to 54	5	41	1,607,791
55 to 59	4	10	419,473
60 and over	14	13	547,633
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>7,867,372</b>

Overall the productivity cost of from homicide and premature death is \$38.6 million or \$95 per victim. The main reason why this cost per victim is lower than the productivity cost of incarceration per victim is that there are more perpetrators and, although the perpetrators are incarcerated for a much

smaller amount of time, the costs are incurred from 2002–03 onwards rather than in later years when the victim is much older and thus is not working and does not have as many years in the labour force.

### 11.3 Lost Productivity From Search and Hiring Replacement and Retraining

It is assumed that all employed perpetrators who are incarcerated for DV reasons and all victims who die due to DV lose their jobs in the 12 months prior to incarceration or death. Employee turnover costs are estimated to be equal to the annual salary of the incumbent worker, while staff training and retraining costs are estimated to be equivalent to 2.5 weeks of salary. However because every worker eventually leaves their job the real cost of turnover is the cost of bringing forward the turnover to an earlier date. By estimating a turnover

rate of 15% per annum (which implies that people change jobs, on average, approximately once every 6.7 years) each worker has, on average, 3 years until their next job change—thus turnover costs are discounted over 3 years. Finally employment rates and AWE is based on ABS 6310.0. Overall the total cost of search and hiring a replacement and retraining is estimated to be \$2.6 million or \$6 per victim.

**Table 39: Turnover Costs Brought Forward To 2002–03**

	PEOPLE WHO LOST JOB		ADMINISTRATION COST (\$M)
	VICTIMS	PERPETRATORS	
Women	227	17	0.4
Men	19	1,014	2.3
Total	246	1,031	2.6

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