One in Three Campaign
PO Box 1292
Bondi Junction NSW 1355
T 02 8006 1IN3
E info@oneinthreecom.au

One in Three Campaign

5 Year Report
March 2015
ABOUT ONE IN THREE

The Campaign

One in Three is a diverse group of male and female professionals – academics, researchers, social workers, psychologists, counsellors and trainers. The Campaign aims to raise public awareness of the existence and needs of male victims of family violence and abuse; to work with government and nongovernment services alike to provide assistance to male victims; and to reduce the incidence and impacts of family violence on Australian men, women and children.

History

In 2009, the founders of One in Three felt that we could no longer retain our moral or intellectual integrity by ignoring the authoritative and growing body of data that indicates males are a substantial proportion of victims of family violence and abuse.

While welcoming the advances that have taken place over recent decades to support women and children suffering from violence, we acknowledge that there is a complete lack of programs, services and support to help men in the same situation. We feel that it is unjust and inequitable to abhor only that violence done to women and children while ignoring violence done to men.

You can get involved in a number of ways. Add your name to the growing list of supporters of the campaign. Send an email to our political leaders, asking them to provide services and support for male victims. Spread the word about the Campaign and website. Contribute financially - even a small amount - so that the campaign can continue to grow. If you are a male victim yourself, please have the courage to tell your story so that this issue can emerge from the shadows.

A BRIEF HISTORY

OF ACTIVITIES SINCE FOUNDATION IN 2009

Public Information:

Our website oneinthree.com.au provides:

- information on the experiences of male victims and their children and barriers to disclosing
- research and statistics about male victims
- opportunities for men to tell their story and read over 100 stories from other men
- news from around the globe
- a comprehensive list of national and international resources.
Our website is included in many other support websites as the main resource for male victims.

We have produced YouTube videos of men telling their personal stories.

We give regular conference presentations, e.g.:
- Australian Institute of Criminology’s Meeting the Need of Victims of Crime conference, May 2011
- Victims & Witnesses of Crime Court Support annual volunteer training event, February 2013
- National Men’s Health Gathering, October 2013
- Illawarra & South Coast Youth Services Conference, November 2013

We provide personal research assistance to secondary and tertiary students.

Collaborations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Collaboration</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 2009 to present</td>
<td>Established an online network of almost 50 supporters of One in Three – clinicians (psychologists, counsellors, social workers), academics, researchers, victim/survivors and activists.</td>
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<td>November 2009 to May 2010</td>
<td>Worked with Men’s Advocacy Network (now MAN - Healthier Directions for Males Inc) in WA to develop the groundbreaking 2010 Intimate Partner Abuse of Men report by researchers at Edith Cowan University.</td>
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<td>February 2011</td>
<td>Worked with the Hawkesbury District Health Service call-back program for male victims to establish a data collection mechanism. Since 2011, Windsor police have been referring men who are victims of family violence to HDHS for counselling.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May to September 2011</td>
<td>Worked with the Global Good Foundation on their Minute of Noise campaign.</td>
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<td>July 2012 to February 2013</td>
<td>Worked with Victims &amp; Witnesses of Crime Court Support, NSW Police and Women’s DVCAS to develop the Insight trial court support scheme at Downing Centre (Inner City Sydney) and Parramatta Courthouses.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2013 to present</td>
<td>Preliminary discussions with colleagues across the Tasman to launch One in Three in NZ.</td>
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Lobbying:

Lodged submissions, attended consultations and appeared before many government inquiries into family violence, e.g.:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lobbying effort</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 2009 to present</td>
<td>Regular lobbying of State &amp; Federal Governments and NGOs on behalf of male victims of family violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2010</td>
<td>ALRC Family Violence: Improving Legal Frameworks inquiry</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2010</td>
<td>Organised roundtable with major stakeholders representing men’s interests at the ALRC Family Violence: Improving Legal Frameworks inquiry</td>
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<td>December 2010</td>
<td>ACT Whole of Government Statement on Family Violence</td>
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<td>January 2011</td>
<td>Family Violence Exposure Draft 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2011</td>
<td>Family Law Legislation Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Bill 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2011</td>
<td>NSW Legislative Council Social Affairs Committee’s Domestic violence trends and issues in NSW Inquiry</td>
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<tr>
<td>February to December 2013</td>
<td>Input into Preventing and Responding to Sexual and Domestic Violence against Men: A Guidance Note for Security Sector Institutions, prepared by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces</td>
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<tr>
<td>July to November 2014</td>
<td>Federal Finance &amp; Public Administration References Committee Inquiry into Domestic violence in Australia</td>
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A BRIEF HISTORY OF ACHIEVEMENTS
SINCE FOUNDATION IN 2009

General public:

Overwhelmingly positive response:

- Received many emails of support via our website (the statistics to the right don’t include any emails we received directly)
- 3,885 Facebook ‘likes’
- 273 Twitter ‘followers’
- over 350,000 unique visitors to the website
- 188 YouTube subscribers and 32,987 YouTube views
- Many high-profile supporters (see quotes below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Email topic</th>
<th>No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criticism</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General inquiries</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student inquiries</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media inquiries</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male victim inquiries</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests to start support groups</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal stories</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
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Media:

Broad media coverage online, in print press and on radio.

Regularly connected journalists with male victims/survivors of family violence for interviews.

Issued eleven media releases and had five letters to the editor published.

Efforts by One in Three were responsible for the removal and/or correction of false and/or misleading ‘statistics’ on family violence published by Governments, NGOs and media outlets that omitted, downplayed and/or denied male victimisation. Some examples include:
**Government:**

$750,000 in funding for Mensline Australia to support male victims of family violence (the first government funding ever for male victims that we are aware of).

Page for male victims on NSW Government domestic violence website (first time ever).

Start Safely housing subsidy scheme (NSW) opened to male victims.

Groundbreaking NSW Government report:

- “There was broad recognition... that women offenders and male victims do exist... Of [reported] victims of domestic assault in 2010, 69.2% were female, while 30.8% were male”
- “Male victims have been much less visible and able to access supports than should be the case”
- “The experience of [males]... is equally as bad as that of other victims”
- “[We recognise] the gap in services for male victims and [encourage] the government to examine how services can most appropriately be provided to male victims of domestic violence”
- Males are “in need of special consideration with regard to domestic violence,” along with Aboriginal people, older people, people with disability, and several other population groups.

Between the 2005 and 2012 ABS Personal Safety Surveys there was a 175% increase in the number of males reporting current partner violence since the age of 15. The rate of men reporting current partner violence in the 12 months prior to interview quadrupled (a rise of 394%), however these estimates are considered too unreliable for general use because of the small number of men interviewed. We believe men are becoming more comfortable disclosing their abuse because of awareness raising by initiatives such as One in Three.

**NGOs:**

Development of Mensline Australia online tip sheets for men experiencing violence or abuse in their relationship, and professionals working with men experiencing violence or abuse in their intimate relationship.

Despite the gendered nature of the terms of reference given to the ALRC, the recommendations of their *Family Violence: Improving Legal Frameworks* inquiry had the aim of improving the safety of all victims of family violence – whether male or female.
Anonymous:

Thank you. I had started to think NOBODY in Australia was being an advocate for men in domestic violence relationships. I have been in contact with Mensline and through many links, I found your information, which I am about to sit down and digest.

I have two men in my life who are or have been victims of domestic violence, both just as valid but both differing in intensity. My partner’s former half used verbal ways to break him and on two occasions tried to take him out. She continues her abuse from afar now using the children as missiles of destruction. The second is my son, whose relationship with me has but a thread left because I dared to speak up and try and protect him. His relationship however is violent, he is physically beaten, bitten, threatened with knives, isolated from friends and family, verbally berated to the point of crying and begging her to stop, mentally and emotionally tortured with threats of sex with others, accusations of rape publicly, promiscuity(?) and suicide, you name it she has thrown it all out there. My son has told me he is broken. I have in the past had him call me different hours of the night crying and I could hear the torment in his voice as he scrambled to appease, negotiate and beg her to stop the verbal abuse. And yet he is a very gifted man both musically and academically, and right at this moment he is preparing his wedding to his abuser - as a mother my heart breaks. He is only 23.

He would not report her - he respected women, thought he could help her, feared it would get turned on him by the police and her. His owns words to me one night, ‘Mum I simply lay on the floor curled up protecting my man parts and wait for it to stop’ It seems at the moment ‘she’ behaves herself - but how do I know, he no longer communicates with me after I confronted her, called her out and threatened to call the police.
Trying to help my son only revealed how there is NO help for men in these situations. They fear mockery, reprisals of the violence, misunderstanding and then there is the stigma that an Aussie man could not get beaten up by a girl - he must always be the perpetrator. How absolutely heart breaking for these men. Where is the voice the advocate that identifies these men and sets the record straight. Where is the voice that says, it's okay we have your back for these men. Women seem to be well represented, and rightly so, but it is a major blight on a society that allows the abuse of any individual simply because it doesn’t fit the criteria of society and gender.

Kerrie:

Congratulations on forming the Campaign and best wishes for success. My son in Denver Colorado has an extremely verbally abusing, accusing and intimidating wife. Is there a similar organization for men in America? Thanking you in anticipation of a reply.

Zena:

Found your very informative website when looking for means to help my son who is a victim and has not had any contact with his children for many months. I want to pass this information on to my son so he can realise and accept he is not the blame. He has no internet or computer access. Many thanks in expectation.

Alex:

I have experienced domestic violence myself, but that’s not how I found your website - I work in the community sector, and have worked with many women who have experienced domestic violence. Whilst we know that men experience it too, nine times out of ten, conversations around violence against men are used to counter arguments about violence against women. The reality, of course, is that we need to have both conversations - and they are not in competition with each other.

Lawrence:

Fantastic website! Congratulations on placing data on the Internet that tells part of the story of domestic violence in which men are the victims. Keep up the great work, and I hope that your organisation is able to get some media exposure in the main stream media... so as to assist in balancing the books.

Margot:

I was really touched by your campaign when I heard about it two years ago. For a university project I have just started a social media campaign on domestic violence directed towards men. My campaign being inspired by One In Three.
Darnè:

How can I help? I can’t give you money as I am a very hard working single Mum of 3 children including 2 teenage boys, but I have qualifications in Business Admin and I would like to help how I can. I have been posting daily reminders on Facebook that domestic violence happens to men too, but want to do more. Please tell me how I can help you help wonderful men like my current partner who has and is suffering just like the men on your website.

Simon:

Thank you for creating this content and campaigning against violence and abuse against men. I have just ended a very abusive 3 year marriage and have found your organisation very helpful and healing. I will be sharing my story. I think much needs to be done on changing the profile of abuse in the eyes of the public, and your one in 3 message. Anyway, well done and THANKYOU!
Rob:

Thank you for taking the time to develop this site. I was wondering how I could practically do my bit to help bearing in mind that I am quite unwell. Anyway I hope this site is able to continue and I would like to make a donation when I am able to.

Chris:

I think your campaign is hugely valuable and hopefully others do too. I truly hope that it has its intended effect. I will make a donation shortly. Many thanks.
EXAMPLES OF QUOTES FROM OUR SUPPORTERS

The Australasian Men’s Health Forum (AMHF)

“The AMHF is the peak body for men’s and boys’ health and wellbeing in Australia. The Executive of AMHF all applaud the aims of the One In Three Campaign. We are often asked to endorse the notion of “No to violence against women” and we do so, wholeheartedly. But we also find that men as victims of intimate partner abuse get ignored. It seems that our society often prefers to take an easy and over simplistic ideological approach to domestic violence: men are perpetrators, women are victims. This website invites us to have a national debate so as to consider in a more balanced way the whole issue of violence with a view to helping us end it.

The World Health Organisation’s publication on Violence and health says:

The public health approach to violence is based on the rigorous requirements of the scientific method. In moving from problem to solution, it has four key steps:

• Uncovering as much basic knowledge as possible about all the aspects of violence - through systematically collecting data on the magnitude, scope, characteristics and consequences of violence at local, national and international levels. [emphasis added]
• Investigating why violence occurs – that is, conducting research to determine:
  • the causes and correlates of violence;
  • the factors that increase or decrease the risk for violence;
  • the factors that might be modifiable through interventions.

The Executive of AMHF totally supports this approach. We feel that the One In Three campaign will disseminate research on this important topic and therefore facilitate a national dialogue based on evidence. This can only be in the interest of families as a whole and all victims and perpetrators.”

Maggie Hamilton,
author of What Men Don’t Talk About and What’s Happening to Our Boys:

“Until researching What Men Don’t Talk About I’d no idea about domestic violence towards men. In speaking about it with friends I was then shocked to discover this had touched the lives of several close friends. These were men of all backgrounds - from manual laborers to professional men. In some cases the violence was inter-generational. While we remain silent on this issue, men continue to be hurt, to be ignored. Once we believed only little girls were subject to sexual abuse, and so countless boys were abused. The same is now true of men. It’s important we say no to all violence.”
Dr. Elizabeth Celi, psychologist and author in men's mental health:

"Throughout the journey of releasing my book on men's mental health and advocating for public awareness, I was alarmed to learn of a hidden social problem: male victims of abusive women. The more I researched the topic, the more aware I became of a conundrum faced by many men. Women may not be able to pack a punch like a man might, but some women's sugar-coated viper tongue can maim and damage a man's identity and self-worth. A man's health is wrapped up in his identity. Therefore the woman who insults his manhood, his sexuality and sensuality, his fathering role, his opinions and contributions, sexually manipulates him or uses various forms of intimidation and manipulation to 'corner him' (including using the children as negotiating tools) does terrible damage to a man's self-esteem. It's a form of social and domestic abuse that's difficult to detect and even more difficult to defend against. The battered man not only reaches a point of holding on to his identity by his fingertips, he also runs the risk of being ridiculed or misunderstood when he finds the courage to seek help. The silent phenomenon that plagued many women decades ago is now a silent phenomenon for many men. In the brilliant way we've rightfully assisted female victims, male victims deserve the same unbiased and supportive assistance."

The Courier, Ballarat, 7th September 2013

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KEY FACTS AND STATISTICS
- Almost one in two victims of family violence is a man.
- More than one in three (3) victims is a child.
- Women are more likely to suffer physical violence than men (23 percent compared to 13 percent). Men are more likely to suffer emotional abuse (26 percent compared to 6 percent). Women are at greater risk of being killed by their partner or ex-partner.

One third of victims male

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013) found that in 2009–10, 33 per cent more men than women were ever in a partner relationship. In all age groups men are more likely to be homicide victims than women. In 2009–10, men represented 60 per cent of all partner-related homicides. Men are more likely to persistently experience family violence than women. In 2009–10, men represented 72 per cent of partner-related family violence cases.

One third of victims male

ARMAGRAM, the National Domestic Violence Hotline (2013) found that in 2009–10, 33 per cent more men than women were victim of partner-related violence. In all age groups men are more likely to be homicide victims than women. In 2009–10, men represented 60 per cent of all partner-related homicides. Men are more likely to persistently experience family violence than women. In 2009–10, men represented 72 per cent of partner-related family violence cases.

One third of victims male

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Rob Koch, Founding Director, Better Men Australia:

“I have been an advocate for many years for women who have been victims of family violence and have supported the necessary ‘Say NO’ campaigns and led the way in challenging men to treat women with the respect they deserve. But since specialising in men’s work eight years ago there have been several men who have quietly disclosed to me that their female partner has been the perpetrator of violence; physical, emotional, financial, even sexual. Dare I believe them, as we would normally do if they were female victims? Some partners even admitted the abuse and came up with the same justifications as male perpetrators normally do.

I began to suggest to my professional colleagues that if we are going to be fair and comprehensive in our response to family violence we also need to acknowledge that male victims do exist; they need support; that perpetrators need to be brought to justice; that women also need programs and supports to address and overcome their anger, power and control issues. Sadly, this plea was often met with lip service at best, or more often - counter claims, suspicion and labelling.

Just recently I felt a measure of vindication with similar calls coming from the sector in the USA, and now through this website. I enthusiastically support the One in Three Campaign as a much-needed balance to those of us attempting to prevent or address family violence. It is time for the movement to mature, and this can only happen if we look at the facts objectively, and hear the silent cries of all human victims, regardless of gender.”

Micheal Woods, Senior Lecturer, School of Biomedical & Health Sciences, University of Western Sydney:

“Policies, legislation and services for family violence in Australia are based on the assumption that nearly all victims are women, and all perpetrators men. This is contrary to the overwhelming body of research findings in Australia and internationally - as reported on this site. Gender is one small factor amongst many in the dynamics of family violence. Yet Government at State and Federal level continues to inflict damage on men, women and particularly children by subscribing to outmoded and simplistic concepts based in ideology – not evidence. As the former Governor General of Australia, Bill Hayden, noted in his opening speech to the Second National Conference on Violence of 1993:

‘to see violence in the home ... as a war against women is to distort reality. Men too are victims. Women too are perpetrators... Neither sex has a monopoly of vice or virtue’

The One in Three campaign is a welcome and substantial contribution to the development of an evidence-based approach to reducing family violence in Australia.”
Toni McLean, domestic violence counsellor and Ph.D researcher:

“The feminist movement has done the community a great service in raising public awareness of, and campaigning for legislation to address, violence in families, in particular partner violence at the hands of dangerous men. However, if we continue to focus only on abuse and violence by men, and in so doing ignore the use of abuse and violence by women towards their partners, we are actually colluding in the violence by our silence. The fact that men are statistically less likely than women to be assaulted by their partners doesn’t mean that men are any less entitled to be free from abuse.

And the children of these relationships are equally affected, regardless of which parent is using violence. It is time to have a genuine focus on ending all violence in families, regardless of the sex of the perpetrator and the sex of the victim. All people are entitled to live without violence.”

Greg Millan, Director, Men’s Health Services:

“As an educator, trainer and researcher with 17 years experience in the men’s health area I am very pleased to support the One in Three Campaign. I have taken an active role in the area of education and raising awareness about men as victims of domestic violence since 1999. I am concerned that we do not address the needs of male victims of domestic violence by providing services and support for them, health promotion programs to halt violence against men and women and appropriate education programs for perpetrators of violence.”

Lee Heather, domestic violence counsellor and group facilitator, Kinections (Woolangabba, Brisbane)

“In my work I meet many men both in groups and individual counselling who tell me that their female partners have also engaged in family violence but nothing is done about this. Sometimes this is simply the individual denying or minimising their own abuse, but many times we check this out to find it is true. Presumably women do not have to be responsible for the part they played in the abuse cycle. This has to end if we are do to anything concrete about lowering rates of family violence.”

Paddy Murray, buddhist prison chaplain and psychotherapist:

“I fully support a more honest government policy around intimate partner or family violence. For too long official policies have focused on men as the problem. The truth is that at least one in three victims are male. An honest policy would focus on decreasing all intimate partner and family violence regardless of the gender of perpetrators or victims. To continue with campaigns and policies that seem to have as their main aim the pathologising of men is bad and ineffective policy as well as dishonest. Not good Karma either.”
I was hit, I was punched, I was headbutted, I was brushed. I felt trapped, physically and emotionally, and isolated from my friends and family. I felt such a sense of shame that this was happening to me.

ANDREA MAYES

The quote from a victim of domestic violence perfectly captures the experience of those suffering at the hands of abusive partners in a way that transcends one cultural respect. The victim in this instance is a male.

Anna Edwards (not her real name) spent three years in an abusive relationship with the mother of her young son before seeking help. She was verbally and physically abused in front of her son, had her front door broken down and fell out into her emotional life. I’m not sure one and 1.992cm, and I would be the only one in the house by a man who thrashed in this way by a woman,” she said.

“You can get over the physical damage that the emotional abuse is so much harder to recover from. I think it’s something everyone should be aware of that there’s a lot of help available.”

The shame comes from a fear of seeking support. If people are supporting and validation, the shame doesn’t last. Nobody told me that I was right and she was wrong. The shame can’t be silenced, so it doesn’t go away.

Think domestic violence and children are your kids or peers, or one of the graphic images on government media campaigns of recent years. What these very successful campaigns are, it was that the victims of domestic violence can be male, too.

It’s difficult to get a true picture of the prevalence of domestic violence against men in Australia, partly because of the extreme reluctance of men to report it. However, it’s estimated that about one in three victims of domestic violence in Australia is male, and the effects of such abuse on men can be just as devastating as on women.

The experience of male victims is the subject of a groundbreaking new study by researchers at Edith Cowan University that will be released next week.

Reflected in the first report in Australia to look in depth at men’s experiences of domestic violence, the Intimate Partner Abuse of Men study was commissioned by the Men’s Advisory Network and interpreted by male survivors, family members who had witnessed the effects of the abuse, and service providers.

It found that men suffered from a wide range of impacts, from physical, verbal and sexual to psychological, financial and social isolation.

“Shame and isolation trapped from punishing, biting, scratching, cutting and the threat of death to men, so the spiking of their drink,” the report found.

Men reported being repeatedly put down and humiliated, being forced to submit to sex against their will as a form of control and being cut off from their family and friends. The victim was a man in a man’s own right. The emotional impact on a man’s self-confidence and subsequent mental health problems can be grossly underestimated.

“She was able to see herself in the role of a victim and deal with it,” the report found.

“The emotional impact on a man’s self-confidence and subsequent mental health problems can be grossly underestimated.”

Psychologist Elizabeth Gill, who specialises in men’s health, says domestic violence against men often has the emotional form of abuse, making it harder to detect than physical abuse.

She says people often wonder that men don’t feel hurt by emotional abuse because they don’t talk about it, but their sense of shame, failure and self-doubt can be no more than that of female victims.

“You are�health is being wrapped up in men’s identity,” she says.

“Female perpetrators can abuse men physically, and they can abuse men’s self-esteem and make him a man in his own right. The emotional impact on a man’s self-confidence and subsequent mental health problems can be grossly underestimated.”

“There is not much research to date on men and the emotional impact of abuse, but we know that men experience the same consequences of domestic violence as women,” the report found.

“This research is the first of its kind in Australia, and it highlights the important role that male survivors and their families have in understanding and addressing this issue,” the report said.

The report found that although many men preferred to keep their experiences of abuse to themselves, many found it helpful to seek support from others.

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Western Australian, 22nd May 2010
Brian Mier, Men's Health Educator & Advocate:

“One of the early managers of a community health service in Victoria (1977-1980), I was appalled at the way things had skewed to victimise men in the system when I returned to the field of health education and promotion three years ago. The One in Three Campaign evidences and highlights the fact that men can be victims of violence, too. Psychological, sexual and emotional violence are no less powerful and destructive than physical violence. I believe in Equity in community health and services, and that actions speak louder than words. I am glad to be able to contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of men and boys in my State and community. Supporting the One in Three Campaign is an important part of my work and adds to my knowledge base.”

Roger Smith, former National Research Officer at Relationships Australia

“I was the National Research Officer at Relationships Australia from 2005 to 2007, so I have a perspective on this issue both as a researcher, and incidentally, as a victim of severe emotional abuse during a turbulent 4 year marriage. I heard about the message of respectful relationships during my time at RA. Certainly, they treated me with respect. But at the same time, there were no tools available to me to deal with the abuse I was getting when I returned home each night.

The abuse was emotional and economic in that I was expected to provide financially for the household, but then my wife would refuse to get a job and refused to even do housework as a way, I believe, to humiliate me. It was tantamount to slavery coupled with constant abusive words and put-downs. I was also cut off from friends if she thought they could be a source of emotional support for me.

I therefore fully support the campaign which also has a human rights component. Article 23 (4) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights guarantees equal rights in marriage and at its dissolution for both men and women. But if we say that only women have protection from DV in marriage we are violating Australia’s international human rights obligations.”

Jeremy Smith, male health worker, Alice Springs (NT)

“We have high rates of family violence, a term we use here as we accept that it impacts on all family members. In July 2008 in the Inteyerrkwe statement 400 Aboriginal males from all over Australia acknowledged and apologised for the hurt caused to women and children by men after a lengthy meeting of 2-3 days. The statement was presented and read to the Australian government and the UN.

Unfortunately significant amounts of violence here are caused by women against men and the 'helping' agencies favour females over men, as does the judicial system. The ‘intervention’ has compounded this bias by portraying Aboriginal men as child sexual abusers, ignoring the fact that most men here
struggle very hard to care for their female partners and children. Women are thus almost guaranteed a sympathetic response and can use that to bully and hurt men, who are even less likely to report it to the authorities than their non-Indigenous counterparts due to the shame involved. Daily we see men who have been hurt by women without any chance of recourse yet the newspapers daily portray violence caused by men to woman.

It is great to see that the One in Three campaign acknowledges all people affected by violence.”

Dr Attila Danko, GP

“We need to expose the truth that family violence is often towards men and boys. They are usually very ashamed to admit it and are scared they will not be believed, or even worse, assumed to be the perpetrator. We need to make sure that all victims have the support they need no matter what their gender. Having my eyes opened to the truth has helped me to help others.”

Ree Pritchard, Gestalt and ACT therapist, AOD Counsellor

“Domestic abuse knows no age, gender, nationality or religion. It is a crime against another human being and all victims from any assault deserve services that are educated to handle respectfully, competently and with up-to-date knowledge about this silent experience that some families are facing alone.”

Dr Bernard Glennon, Barrister-at-law

Bernard Glennon, Barrister-at-law “Thank you for your good work. More needs to be done in this area for male victims of female crimes. Best wishes.”

Noel Segismundo Cabigting, Pastoral Practitioner & Counsellor

“Violence against men is still a taboo and thus under reported but the consequences are real and costly. Thanks to One in Three, men who suffered abuse of any form have an advocate. I wholeheartedly lend my support to One in Three and want to honour their valuable contribution to improving men’s lives.”

Rodney Lovell, Melbn Pty Ltd, Strategy Director and Presenter, White Ribbon Ambassador

“I am an Ambassador for White Ribbon. I certainly understand and support the eradication of domestic violence against men. I will definitely be adding the 1IN3 message to my talks on DV, and my men’s depression workshops. Keep up the great work.”
Are men victims of domestic violence too?

By Joseph Thomsen (ABC Local)

How prevalent is domestic abuse against men?

The issue of domestic violence has a higher profile than it once did.

Most of the discussion, and virtually all of the funding, centres around violence towards women.

But men can be victims of abuse in relationships as well.

It’s an issue promoted by advocacy groups like the One-In-Three Campaign, and which has been echoed by male and female listeners to ABC Goulburn Murray.

Greg Andresen is a senior researcher with the One-In-Three Campaign, and he explained why his group had that name.

“We set up the campaign in 2009 to raise awareness of the fact that in Australia, at least one in three victims of family violence and abuse are male.

And that may surprise you and your listeners because it’s not a statistic that we hear very much about.”

We asked how credible those statistics were.

“They’re based on a broad range of statistics, Australian Bureau of Statistics figures, where they fill out a survey, a random sample of the population, so that captures everyone in the population hopefully, not just those who turn up to the police.”

Several local men called in to share their stories anonymously, with one caller describing the abuse in his marriage as a mix of physical and emotional.

“I’ve been hit probably a dozen times over that 10 to 15 years I guess… It’s more the words and the screaming that really hurts more than anything.”

Another caller said there were a number of times he had to fend off knife attacks from his former partner.

“I was attacked with weapons and stuff like that, you know knives, the only time I’d ever put my hands on her was to restrain her, otherwise you’d just take the hits.”
Robert Brockway, former Police Officer

“As a former police officer I was already aware that a significant proportion of domestic violence was against men and that in many cases the male and female domestic partners perpetrated domestic violence against each other. I also often observed the lack of regard shown by police officers for male victims of domestic violence. I was looking for hard data on rates of domestic violence against men for research I am doing and was pleased to find your site. I full support the prevention of domestic violence (and indeed all forms of violence) against all humans regardless of the gender of the perpetrator or the victim. I am troubled by how often problems that impact both genders are painted in the mass media and public consciousness as gender issues, impacting only one gender.”

Mark Rosenthal, RADAR (Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting), USA:

“The first serious research into family violence was the 1975 U.S. National Family Violence Survey funded by the U.S. National Institute of Health and conducted by sociologists Murray Straus, Suzanne Steinmetz, and Richard Gelles. The researchers expected to find that partner violence was overwhelmingly male-on-female violence, but their data showed that assumption to be wrong. When they presented their research findings at a conference, the data was so unwelcome that they were nearly hooted and booed from the stage. In the three decades since then, the media has kept the public ignorant of objective research into family violence, and instead presented a biased portrayal of the issue. Domestic violence is a human problem, not a gendered problem. A fair and just society would see to it that all victims are treated with compassion. R.A.D.A.R. - Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting - is a non-profit, non-partisan organisation of men and women working to improve the effectiveness of the approach to solving domestic violence.”

Harry Crouch, National Coalition For Men, USA:

“There is a large body of research from Westernised countries that show more than one in three victims of intimate partner violence are men. Emerging research is beginning to establish that in some countries men are substantially more likely to be abused by a woman than a woman by a man. Regardless, the number of men abused by women is huge. Such abuse is not gender-specific. Why then are there so few or no related services for men? Why do so few fathers and mothers defend their sons? Why do civilised societies punish men for things they have not done while at the same time send them to die or be seriously injured in war? How is it we so easily abuse, shame, and accuse our sons and then disenfranchise them as adults for being violent? How convoluted is it then that we blame female violence on men and grant women excuse after excuse for their violence?”

Gordon E. Finley, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Florida International University, USA:

“Silent Victims No More’ easily could be one theme for the One in Three Campaign. There is nothing inherent to being a boy or man that requires us silently to accept violence (physical, sexual, or emotional) from girls and women. The data in the United States clearly indicate that males and females initiate domestic violence at approximately equal rates with a very disturbing trend in some recent studies suggesting increasing initiation rates by girls and women. A Campaign whose time has come.”
Thomas Golden, author, *Swallowed by a Snake: The Gift of the Masculine Side of Healing*, USA:

“I have worked as a psychotherapist with traumatised men for over 30 years. About 10 years ago I became aware that men were indeed victims of domestic violence and were often put into very difficult positions of having to protect themselves and their children from harm. I was shocked at the time to realize that there was no place for these men to go to get help. I started contacting legislators, domestic violence agencies and anyone else who might listen. I was amazed at the lack of concern for these men. The domestic violence treatment centers were obviously built for female victims and it didn't take much investigation to find that they also held men accountable for the origins of domestic violence. Not ‘some men’ who are out of control for some reason or another but rather ‘men in general’ or even masculinity itself. This sort of assumption has short-circuited men from getting help in the present system. How can one have compassion for those who, according to the theoretical model, deserve the blame for the problem itself? You can’t. Our system of domestic violence is long overdue to be completely re-organised to have compassion for both male and female victims. Thank you for your web site and your concern for male victims of domestic violence.”

Bernard Smith, Family Violence Response Coordinator, Work and Income New Zealand:

“As a society we will never eliminate family violence until we include men's experience of violence alongside women's and children's”
ONE IN THREE VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE IS MALE

oneinthree.com.au

1IN3 is a diverse group of male and female professionals working to raise public awareness of the existence and needs of male victims of family violence and abuse.

Go to oneinthree.com.au/supporters for more information.