Agree, a request for this correction is warranted. Data do not appear to support the claim that “most” women assaulted in the last 12 months were assaulted by either a current or previous partner. In results from the Personal Safety Survey (PSS), estimates are presented separately for physical and sexual assault, and a combined estimate of assault is difficult to obtain (figures can not simply be added together as a person may have experienced both forms of assault). However, as stated in the response of Andresen, the PSS estimated that 73,800 of 242,000 females (30.5%) who experienced physical assault in the previous 12 months were assaulted by a current or previous partner (ABS, PSS, Table 16, page 30), and that of the 101,600 females sexually assaulted in the last 12 months, 7,800 (7.7%) were assaulted by a current partner and 21,000 (21.1%) by a previous partner (ABS, PSS, Table 19, page 33). Thus, based on the data presented, it cannot be stated that “most” women assaulted in the last 12 months were assaulted by either a current or previous partner.

**Recommendation:**
The correction suggested by Andresen could be amended to the following, in accordance with a statement on page 9 of the PSS publication:

*The most recent Personal Safety Survey (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006) found that 31 per cent of women physically assaulted in the last 12 months were assaulted by either a current or previous partner.*

These statements are addressing different concepts — both are correct interpretations of the PSS findings. The statement included in the Discussion Paper complements the previous sentence regarding the proportion of female victims of physical assault who were assaulted by either a current or previous partner. The PSS did estimate that only a small proportion of physical assaults against men in the previous 12 months were perpetrated by a former or current female partner (4.4%) (ABS, PSS, Table 16, page 30). Note the publication does warn readers that the estimate should be used with caution, due to a large relative standard error.

The PSS also estimated that 21,200 of 95,100 victims (22.2%) physically assaulted in the last 12 months by former or current partners were males.

**Recommendation:**
Perhaps both statements can be included.
Extract from Discussion Paper (page 3):

Three quarters of intimate partner homicides involve men killing their female partners.

Correction:
The latest Homicide in Australia: 2006-07 National Homicide Monitoring Program annual report (Australian Institute of Criminology 2008) found that less than two thirds (64.6%) of intimate partner homicides involve men killing their female partners (pp 2, 57)³.

³ 44 males and 21 females perpetrated intimate partner homicide in 2006-07 while 23 males and 42 females were victims (2 male victims were killed by their male partners).

The most recent report from the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) does report that 42 of 65 victims (64.6%) of intimate partner homicides in 2006/07 involved men killing their female partners. The estimate of “three quarters” quoted in the Discussion Paper comes from an older report that has the advantage of using data from a 13-year period, from 1 July 1989 to 30 June 2002. While dated, this estimate would be a more reliable estimate of this measure over time than an estimate based on one year only.

Recommendation:
Provide both statements, for example:

Furthermore, an Australian Institute of Criminology study found that three quarters of intimate partner homicides between 1989 and 2002 involved men killing their female partners. The latest Homicide in Australia: 2006-07 National Homicide Monitoring Program annual report (Australian Institute of Criminology 2008) found that 65 per cent of intimate partner homicides involved men killing their female partners.

Extract from Discussion Paper (page 3):

Data from the Personal Safety Survey also indicates that women reporting violence in intimate relationships are significantly more likely than men to experience repeated acts of violence.

Correction:
Data from the Personal Safety Survey (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006) indicates that women reporting violence by current partners in intimate relationships are significantly more likely than men to experience repeated acts of violence. However, women and men reporting violence by previous partners in intimate relationships experience repeated acts of violence at similar rates (p37)⁴.

⁴ 60.1 per cent of males and 67.6 per cent of females experienced more than one incident of violence from a previous partner since the age of 15.

Andresen is correct in that a distinction could have been made between current and previous intimate partners. Given that the PSS findings are presented separately for current and previous partners it is difficult to draw conclusions about intimate relationships more generally. For relationships with current partners, estimates of “more than one incident of violence” for males and females were 25.7% and 45.8% respectively (ABS, PSS, Table 23, page 37) (readers are warned that the estimate of 25.7% for males should be used with caution, due to a large relative standard error). For previous partners, estimates were 60.1% and 67.6% respectively for males and females (ABS, PSS, Table 23, page 37). Based on these estimates there would appear to be support for the statement that women reporting violence in intimate relationships are more likely than men to experience repeated acts of violence. Whether they are “significantly” more likely is questionable. Interestingly, while Andresen claims that 60.1% and 67.6% are “similar rates” here, he finds a distinction of 65% vs 75% worth correcting (see previous point).

Recommendation:
Amend statement, for example:

Data from the Personal Safety Survey also indicates that of those reporting violence in a current or previous relationship, women were more likely than men to have experienced more than one incident of violence (45.8% versus 25.7% for current and 67.6% versus 60.1% for previous).
While there may be a better reference to cite here, given that the publication referred to was from conference proceedings in 2000, and does not seem to be publicly accessible, the points included are likely to be a true representation of the study's findings. Andresen’s suggestion is therefore not so much a "correction", but draws on a different data source. The derivation of the percentages provided by Andresen is dubious. It appears that estimated numbers of current and previous partner violence have been summed and divided by the total population, separately for males and females. Given that persons may have experienced violence with both current and previous partners, such a calculation would not be appropriate, leading to double counting.

Recommendation:
At minimum, in the context of the Bagshaw and Chung study, more detail should be provided so that the statement is less ambiguous. For example, does this statement mean that males were more likely to experience isolated incidents of violence, rather than multiple incidents? Alternatively, this paragraph should be updated, or compared, with more recent findings, such as the PSS, as suggested by Andresen.

This “correction” does not address the same issue, but a different concept altogether. Having experienced “previous partner violence” is not akin to “post separation violence”.

It is unclear why a 2003 report was cited when more recent reports are available. The point made by Andresen appears justified, and interpretations of the Statistics Canada 2008 report correct.
Recommendation:
The latest survey, "Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile" (Statistics Canada 2008), found that:
- Similar percentages of female and male victims of spousal violence reported to police services sustained injuries. (p14)
- Male victims of spousal violence reported to police are 1.8 times as likely as female victims of spousal violence to suffer major assault (p20)

Extract from Discussion Paper (page 4):  
In addition, a study in the United States comparing the mental health impacts of domestic violence for men and women found that women were markedly more likely to suffer impacts than men.

Correction:
While the referenced study of 502 university students (Romito and Grassi 2007) did find that the mental health impacts of domestic violence on women were markedly greater than on men, it also found that "for experienced and witnessed family violence, the health impact was similar for males and females" (p1222).
A further study of 573 university students (Prospero 2007) found that "reporting higher number of mental health symptoms was significantly related to experiencing higher levels of IPV victimization but not to gender (female or male)".

The statement made in the Discussion Paper regarding the Romito and Grassi paper is not incorrect, but is lacking in detail.

Recommendation:
At minimum the statement could be amended to clarify that the difference was found in relation to intimate partner violence. For example:

In addition, a study in the United States comparing the mental health impacts of domestic violence for men and women found that women were markedly more likely than men to suffer mental health impacts as a consequence of intimate partner violence. The health impact for experienced and witnessed family violence was similar for males and females.

The Prospero study findings could also be included for balance.

Extract from Discussion Paper (page 4):
Compared to men, women comprise the majority of domestic and family violence victims brought to the attention of criminal justice agencies. An analysis of reported incidents of domestic assault in NSW between 1997 and 2004 indicated that 71% of domestic assault incidents reported to the police involved a female victim, and that 80% of the offenders were male. By these figures, 29% of victims were male, not an insignificant proportion. A possible explanation for this is given by Flood. On his analysis, the data relied upon may be categorised as being drawn from "acts based instruments". Flood argues that such instruments have value as surveillance instruments in the general population but they are inadequate for capturing the substance, impact or dynamics of intimate partner violence, and particularly the more serious forms of this violence, which women experience at far greater rates than men. In this regard, whilst the figures show a not insignificant proportion of men experiencing domestic violence, they do not capture the seriousness of that violence.

Correction:
The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research data (People 2005) showing that 29% of domestic assault victims are male is crime data (based upon reports to police) and therefore does not rely whatsoever upon the 'acts based instruments' used to obtain survey data. However, the statistics quoted on page 3 of the discussion paper from the Personal Safety Survey (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006) and the International Violence Against Women Survey (Mouzos and Makki 2004) rely exclusively upon 'acts based instruments'. Dr Flood's critique can therefore be applied only to data from these surveys, and is not a valid or relevant critique of the NSW crime data.
The estimates quoted from the BOCSAR bulletin are correct. While Flood's critique was made in relation to the Personal Safety Survey, his comments would seem to apply equally to police-recorded data, such as that reported in People 2005. The People study focused on domestic violence assault, physical violence (including threats) rather than on other forms of abuse such as emotional abuse, social abuse and economic deprivation (p2). It is the case that in police records domestic violence is defined "in terms of violent acts, rather than the presence of fear or injury or other forms of power and control", the basis of Flood's criticism of the PSS (p7). Flood's critique is relevant not only to survey instruments but to other quantitative measures that focus on violent acts.

**Recommendation:**
Leave as is.

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**Extract from Discussion Paper (page 5):**
Exposure to domestic and family violence and, in the case of boys particularly, may lead to them perpetrating violence as adults.

**Correction:**
The referenced paper "Young Australians and Domestic Violence" (Indemaur 2001) says nothing whatsoever about boys being more likely than girls to perpetrate violence as adults if exposed to domestic and family violence as children. It instead talks generically of "young people".

This seems to be a fair point. Indemaur does not appear to state, or present findings to suggest, that "boys particularly" may be drawn to perpetrate violence as adults. Indemaur does state that "the same factors associated with higher rates of witnessing and higher rates of violence in relationships were also predictors of pro-violence attitudes" (p.5), including being male, however, this is not the essence of the statement included in the Discussion Paper.

**Recommendation:**
The current sentence is corrected to state, for example:

Exposure of young people to domestic and family violence may lead to them perpetrating violence as adults.

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**Extract from Discussion Paper (page 5):**
Domestic and family violence can be lethal. In Australia from 1989 to 1998, 57% of female deaths resulting from homicide or violence were perpetrated by an intimate partner, with women being over five times more likely to be killed by an intimate partner than men.

**Correction:**
The latest Homicide in Australia: 2006/07 National Homicide Monitoring Program annual report (Australian Institute of Criminology 2008) found that:
- 52% of female homicides were perpetrated by an intimate partner (p2)\(^6\).
- women were 1.8 times as likely to be killed by an intimate partner than men (p2)\(^7\).

\(^6\) There were 42 female intimate partner homicide victims out of 81 female homicide victims in total.
\(^7\) There were 23 male and 42 female intimate partner homicide victims.

While it could be argued that the reference is dated, the data from Mouzos (1999) are correctly represented, and have the advantage of being derived from a 10-year period. The data suggested by Andresen are based on one year only, and the statement that 'women were 1.8 times as likely to be killed by an intimate partner than men' is misleading and cannot be concluded from the raw numbers noted. Indeed, while the number of female victims of intimate partner homicide was 1.8 times the number of male victims, given that 53% of female victims were killed by intimates, in comparison to 10% of male victims (from Figures 5 and 6), females are much more likely than males to be killed by intimate partners than by others.
**Recommendation:**
More recent data is obtained from the Australian Institute of Criminology, or the existing sentence is supplemented with data from the 2006/07 report.

**References:**

Australian Institute of Criminology 2008, Homicide in Australia: 2006/07 National Homicide Monitoring Program annual report, AIC Reports, Monitoring Reports 01, AIC, Canberra.


Romito, P and Grassi, M. 2007, 'Does violence affect one gender more than the other? The mental health impact of violence among male and female university students', Social Science & Medicine, Vol 65, pp. 1222-1234.
