

# Media Watch

A report on activities from  
June 2009 to June 2011

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# Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Highlights of media watch activities	5
Complete summary of media watch activities	8
1. <i>Media watch</i>	8
2. <i>Lobbying and networking</i>	36
3. <i>Taking part in government inquiries and consultations</i>	41
4. <i>Circulating men's health information of interest</i>	43
Appendix A - Financial Report, 1st July 2010 - 30th June 2011	70
Appendix B - Pointers for conducting media watch work	71



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## INTRODUCTION

In November 2007, I was contracted by Men's Health SA (MHSA – at that time the South Australian Men's Health Alliance – SAMHA) to conduct a one-day-a-week Media Watch role on behalf of SAMHA and its collaborative partners, the Men's Health Information & Resource Centre at the University of Western Sydney (MHIRC) and the Australasian Men's Health Forum (AMHF). In July 2010, a fourth collaborative partner came on board to support the project – The Men's Advisory Network (MAN) from Western Australia.

The Media Watch role involved the critique, analysis and, when appropriate, challenging of mass media statements and commentary and other forms of institutional, academic and government literature and media that:

- depicted men or boys or masculinity in an unfair, negative or disparaging way
- were misleading, inaccurate, or prejudicial towards men and boys
- detracted from a general positive affirmation of men, boys, and masculinity
- undermined the endeavour to approach men and boy's health and issues in an intelligent, respectful, positive, equitable and constructive way.

Rejuvenate MEN & BOYS HEALTH SPECIAL Advertising feature

## Why the joke is now on men

**Amanda Davy**

SINCE the feminist movement came into power some four decades ago, men have been the butt of countless jokes, but now beside any man who decides to get his own back with the women.

Men-bagging has become a popular pastime among females, with men often portrayed as self-obsessed, hopeless, lazy, aggressive, smelly and clueless.

They can't cook, won't clean, don't listen and refuse to ask for directions.

Even the media and marketers have jumped on the men-bagging bandwagon, while sexist joke emails at his expense now take up a considerable amount of cyberspace much to the amusement of the fairer sex in particular.

Man jokes are based around tiresome generalisations and gender-based stereotypical myths but at the end of the day, does this phenomenon have an effect on men?

"Sure it does," according to Dr Paul Nathanson, Canadian co-author of the *Misandry* series of books which started with *Sprenging Misandry: The Feeding of Contempt for Men in Popular Culture*.

"Most men think twice before admitting that it bothers them, of course, because that would mean admitting vulnerability to a problem, not being in control, or whatever which seems tantamount to admitting that they're less than men," Dr Nathanson said.

"Real men are supposed to be above it all. You know, real men can take it.

"Real men don't whine.

"This means that men today are ideal targets. After all, they're unlikely to fight back. Every woman knows this and many women find ways of using it to their political advantage." But perhaps of greater concern is the impact that men-bagging has on boys. Dr Nathanson points out that boys are still trying to figure out what manhood means but the message that they are getting from all sides is that men are worthless.

UTS Professor Jim Macnamara, agrees. The author of 2006 bestseller, *Media and Male*



APPARENTLY WE'VE BEEN WRONG ALL THESE YEARS AND MEN AREN'T ALL LAZY, SMELLY, CLUELESS DEADBEATS...

I WON'T TELL IF YOU WON'T

*Identity: The Making and Remaking of Men*, says these largely inaccurate and potentially disparaging generalisations are damaging to boys who are growing up and establishing their self-identity and self-worth.

"I believe that mothers of sons, as well as men, should be concerned about some of the man-bashing that goes on," he said.

"At a more insidious level, my research found that the most common representations of men in the media, including news, soaps, current affairs, talk-back and cartoons, were as violent aggressors, deadbeat dads, incompetent domestically, uncaring and insensitive."

And about that "men don't do the dishes" myth, Greg Andresen from Men's Health Australia says that misnomer was propagated by feminists.

"All the evidence shows that men and women work an almost identical total amount of hours per week inside and outside the home," he said.

"Surveys show that most Australian men would love to spend more time at home with their families and children and yes, wash the dishes too, but the pressures of being the primary breadwinner generally don't allow it.

"It's about time we ended this myth-making about men that does nothing but fuel the ridiculous battle of the sexes that was started by second-wave feminists almost 40 years ago."

As for sexist jokes, Dr Nathanson sees no reason to overlook the double standard.

"If they're wrong for women, they're wrong for men."

An example of Media Watch activity

The role soon expanded to include four main categories of work. The first area – **media watch** – involved keeping an eye on print press, advertising, websites, publications, TV, movies and radio, on the lookout for inaccurate and misleading representations of men, boys and gender issues. When such material was identified, four main methods would be employed to challenge these inaccurate and misleading representations:

- (a) direct contact with the media outlet involved
- (b) letters to the editor
- (c) official complaints to bodies such as the Australian Press Council, Australian Communications and Media Authority, and the ABC’s Independent Complaints Review Panel
- (d) media releases (followed, if successful, by media appearances).

As well as challenging inaccurate and misleading representations of men, boys and gender issues, the media watch role also involved writing accurate male-positive articles and media releases, and taking part in interviews and media discussions from an accurate male-positive standpoint.

Some of this work was conducted as a member of the MHSA Media Watch Portfolio – an active group of MHSA members working toward similar goals.

An appendix has been included at the end of this report giving pointers for others wishing to conduct their own Media Watch work.

The second category of work – **lobbying and networking** – involved talking and writing to politicians, government bureaucrats, NGOs and other organisations and individuals to convey a factual, male-friendly point-of-view on issues of concern to males. This involved both proactive networking (for example, meeting with the new CEO of the White Ribbon Foundation, Libby Davies) and lobbying politicians about existing issues (for example, writing to the members of the [Senate Select Committee on Men’s Health](#) regarding the Federal Office for Women’s call for tenders for members of a [Panel Arrangement of Gender Experts \(Gender Panel\)](#)).

The third category of work was **taking part in government inquiries and consultations**. This involved both written submissions to government inquiries (for example, the [submission](#) to the Department of Health and Ageing with regards to the National Male Health Policy) and taking part in face-to-face government consultations (for example, the NSW Government [consultation](#) on minimum standards for domestic violence behaviour change programs).

The fourth area of work undertaken in the role of Media Advocacy Consultant involved **circulating men's health information of interest**, via the Men's Health Australia website ([menshealthaustralia.net](http://menshealthaustralia.net)), email lists, occasional e-newsletters and more recently via Twitter and Facebook. In 2011 a new website for the AMHF was also developed as part of this area.

This is the second of two reports. The first report was published in May 2009, and is available online at [www.menshealthaustralia.net/files/MHSA\\_Media\\_Watch\\_Report\\_July\\_2009.pdf](http://www.menshealthaustralia.net/files/MHSA_Media_Watch_Report_July_2009.pdf).

## HIGHLIGHTS OF MEDIA WATCH ACTIVITIES

The following are a some of the highlights of media watch work over the past two years.

Violence was the issue most frequently covered, not because it is the most important men's health issue, but because it is the men's health issue that receives by far the most media attention (more than twice as much as the next most widely covered issue, prostate cancer, and over a hundred times as often as boys' health and education). It is also the most frequently misrepresented and has the most far-ranging impacts on other areas of men's health and wellbeing. For example, the current violence paradigm leads to family law bias, false allegations against men, increased male suicide rates, increased rates of fatherlessness, lack of male schoolteachers, stereotyping of Aboriginal males, lack of services for male victims, and negative media portrayals of men, as just a few examples.

- Previous lobbying work helped achieve \$750,000 in federal funding for Mensline Australia to support male victims of domestic violence.
- In [errata](#) published on the NSW Government's Office for Women's Policy webpage, the Government admitted to errors in its *Discussion paper on NSW Domestic and Family Violence Strategy* that over-inflated the female victimisation rate from partner assault by at least 65 per cent while downplaying the prevalence of violence against men by their former partners. This lobbying helped lead to the introduction, for the first time, of a [page for male victims of domestic violence](#) on the NSW Government's website.
- Amnesty International Australia changed the wording of their website and other materials promoting their *Stop Violence Against Women Campaign* from claiming that "violence against women is *the most* widespread human rights abuses in the world" to simply "*one of the most* widespread abuses."
- Amanda Davey from the Manly Daily newspaper published a wide-ranging Men & Boys Health Special [feature article](#), prompted by my [It's not OK to bash men](#) op-ed.
- The South Australian Ombudsman released a [report](#) finding that the Office for Women had "published some false and/or misleading information on the *Don't Cross the Line* [relationship violence] website;" had "failed to correct information on the website once the possible errors were brought to its attention;" and had "failed to act with reasonable diligence and speed once possible errors were brought to its attention." These were considered "unreasonable and wrong administrative actions." As a result, the Office for Women amended its website.

- The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)'s *Independent Complaints Review Panel* (ICRP) examined our complaint concerning a White Ribbon Day item broadcast on *The 7.30 Report* on 25 November 2008. The Panel [upheld](#) our concerns with the claim that “more than one in three Australian women will experience violence inflicted by their partner at some point in their lifetime” and organised for an addition to be made to the [transcript](#) of the item on the program’s website.
- Published two op-eds on the widely read Online Opinion website titled [One in three victims of family violence is male](#) and [Government deception won't reduce family violence](#).
- Professor Edwina Cornish of Monash University conducted an inquiry into what we believe to be questionable academic conduct by Professor Thea Brown. Professor Brown made unsubstantiated claims in multiple Monash media releases and her book *Child Abuse and Family Law* that “domestic violence is increasingly reported as a cause of partnership breakdown, with two-thirds of couples in Australia attributing the separation to domestic violence and one-third to severe domestic violence” and “some 30 per cent of all marriages in Australia fail because of domestic violence.” The inquiry resulted in the publication of a [media release](#) by the University.
- Channel Ten News [acknowledged](#) that one of their news items broadcast factually inaccurate material by:
  - referring to domestic violence as the leading ‘cause’ of death and disability in young Victorian women, and
  - referring to Victorian women aged between 15 and 44 as being more likely to be killed by their partner than by smoking, heart disease or obesity.
- Lobbying efforts by the MHSA Media Portfolio to the *Better Health Channel* website in Victoria were successful at achieving a gender-neutral re-write of their fact sheets ([here](#) and [here](#)) about children and domestic violence.
- [Interviewed](#) Dr Warren Farrell, best-selling author of *The Myth Of Male Power*, *Father and Child Reunion* and *Why Men Earn More* for the occasion of International Men’s Day 2010.
- Commissioned new [data](#) from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) *Personal Safety Survey 2005* (PSS) which showed that family and domestic violence against males was more widespread than published in their original survey.

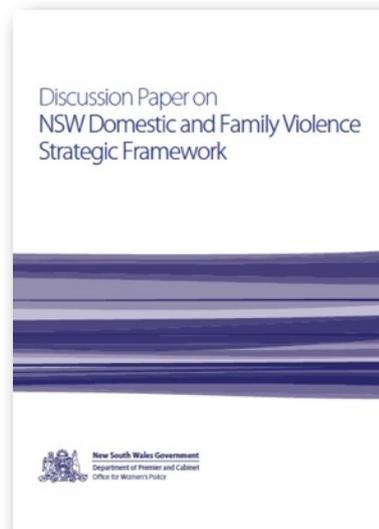
- Commissioned new [data](#) from the Australian Institute of Criminology's *National Homicide Monitoring Program* showing that in 2007/08, children were almost twice as likely to be killed by their mother or her new partner than by their father.
- Co-presented a paper and panel session titled *Meeting the needs of male victims of domestic and family violence* at the Australian Institute of Criminology's *Meeting the Needs of Victims of Crime* conference in Sydney.
- Organised a roundtable with major stakeholders representing men's interests at the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) *Family Violence: Improving Legal Frameworks* inquiry. As a result, their [recommendations](#) were directed towards reforming legal frameworks with the aim of improving the safety of *all* victims of family violence – whether male or female.

## COMPLETE SUMMARY OF MEDIA WATCH ACTIVITIES

### 1. Media watch

June 2009

- Received a [reply](#) from Barry Collier MP, Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Attorney General (NSW) noting that our concerns about statistical errors in the [Discussion Paper on NSW Domestic and Family Violence Strategic Framework](#) had been forwarded to the Premier, the Hon Nathan Rees MP, for consideration. Received a [reply](#) from Verity Firth MP, Minister for Women advising that the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research has provided some [useful advice](#) on the issues raised by us, and that the Office for Women's Policy would shortly be posting revised statistical information on its website. As the revised information did not appear on the website, a [follow-up letter](#) was sent to Ms Firth.



The NSW Government finally confirmed making substantial errors in its *Discussion paper on NSW Domestic and Family Violence Strategy*. In [errata](#) published on the Office for Women's Policy webpage, the Government admitted errors that over-inflated the female victimisation rate from partner assault by at least 65 per cent while downplaying the prevalence of violence against men by their former partners. A media release titled [Call to stop demonising men and boys](#) was issued to draw media attention to the errata.

A [letter](#) was sent to the NSW Minister for Women outlining our concerns that eleven of the fourteen incorrect and misleading statistics contained in the *Discussion Paper* remained uncorrected, and were continuing to mislead the general public about the serious issue of violence. After a change of minister, a [follow-up letter](#) was sent to the new Minister for Women, Linda Burney. A reply was received from the Office for Women stating that "Careful consideration was given to all of the concerns raised in your original correspondence, As a result, it was determined that an errata was appropriate in relation to three points, and this errata was subsequently uploaded onto the Office for Women's Policy website."

An official complaint was lodged with the office of the NSW Ombudsman, who [determined](#) that the Office for Women “was under no obligation to satisfy you that the action that they had taken on your submission was suitable. I have decided to take no further action on your complaint.” A review of this decision was [requested](#). A [reply](#) was received stating that “I do not consider there is enough evidence of wrong conduct on the part of the authority for our office to investigate.” A [letter](#) was sent to the Ombudsman asking him to explain to us why clear evidence of mistakes of fact made by the Office for Women was not enough evidence of wrong conduct for his office to investigate. A final [reply](#) was received from the Ombudsman himself confirming the decision to decline our complaint. The Ombudsman noted that our concern “would seem to be a matter to be pursued at a political level as it involves issues of government policy rather than matters of administration which is the purview of my office.”

After the NSW Government released its *Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan*, a further [letter](#) was sent to the Premier outlining our concerns that it contained numerous statistical errors. A [letter](#) was received from the new Minister for Women, Jodi McKay, noting our concerns.

A [follow-up letter](#) was sent to the Office for Women noting that we still expected them to take action with regard to our concerns, and that if no action was taken, a new complaint would be lodged with the Ombudsman’s office. A similar [letter](#) was also sent to the Minister for Women. A [reply](#) was received from the Office for Women, responding on behalf of the Minister, noting that “the Minister has already responded to your earlier correspondence dated 10 June 2010 and I do not propose to add anything further to her response.” Furthermore the Office for Women provided the following cryptic explanation to our request asking which of the 91 actions within the five strategic directions contained in the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan are initiatives that apply to male victims of domestic and family violence, and which are not:

It is not intended that male victims be excluded from any of the initiatives contained in the Action Plan, unless an action is specifically directed at women. Examples of actions that will apply to male victims include the new domestic and family violence website, which will include a page on men and domestic violence, and the recently established Domestic Violence Death Review Team.

- Assisted journalism student Kristen Vear from Deakin University with an article on male victims of domestic violence.
- Interviewed by Kristyn Comino from the School of Journalism at the University of Canberra for a feature article titled [Paid parental leave doesn't add up for dads](#).

- Provided information for a BA Journalism (Bond University) student writing a thesis on male victims of domestic violence (her final grade was 90%).

## July 2009

- Wrote and circulated my first [report](#) for the Media Watch role (December 2007 to May 2009).

- Worked with Micheal Woods from the University of Western Sydney on a story that journalist Nick Taylor was putting together for PerthNow titled [More reports of WA mothers mistreating children](#).

Woods also analysed the data in a paper titled [Dads Not the Demons](#).

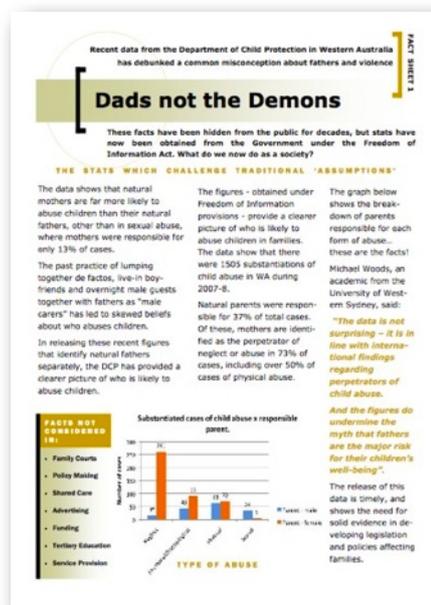
- Lodged a complaint with the Australian Press Council about a series of news articles generated by a White Ribbon Day media release which incorrectly claimed that “one in every three boys believes it is acceptable to hit girls,” “in South Australia, 22% of young people surveyed reported

witnessing an act of physical violence against their mother or stepmother” and “up to half of all young people have seen or heard emotional or psychological violence used against their mothers or stepmothers.” The complaint was declined as it was received outside the 60 day timeframe for complaints.

- Wrote the following (unpublished) letter to the editor of the Sydney Morning Herald in response to an article titled [Female managers \\$13,500 worse off than men](#):

Dr Ian Watson of Macquarie University says that while some of the gender difference in average wages can be explained by factors such as women working fewer hours than men, most is likely to be due to discrimination (SMH, July 13). Unfortunately his research provides little evidence of this. Watson found that much of the gender wage gap remained ‘unexplained’ and therefore assumed that it was due to discrimination. There remains another possibility - one unexamined by Watson’s research. Because many women want to stop full-time work to look after their children and many men want to take on the breadwinner role to provide for their partners and children, male managers may simply be more highly motivated to earn more (and therefore more aggressive at pursuing promotions, etc).

- Worked with the MHSa Media Portfolio on correspondence with the [Better Health Channel](#) website in Victoria about gender bias in their fact sheets about children and domestic violence. Also worked on correspondence with FaHCSIA about Prime Minister Kevin Rudd’s 2008 [White Ribbon Day speech](#) which contained serious statistical errors.



## August 2009

- [Wrote](#) to Amnesty International Australia regarding their use of the incorrect and misleading statistic that “violence against women is *the most* widespread human rights abuse in the world” in their website and other materials promoting the Stop Violence Against Women Campaign. The point was made that violence against men, on every available indicator, is much more extensive, widespread, and with much greater health impacts, than is violence against women. As a result of this correspondence, Amnesty changed their wording to claim that “violence against women *is one of* the most widespread human rights abuses in the world.”
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Relatives of disappeared and murdered women protest in Mexico City.  
© REUTERS/Henry Romero.

**Stop Violence Against Women**  
Violence against women is one of the most widespread human rights abuses in the world.
- Worked with the MHSa Media Portfolio on a letter to the [Alannah and Madeline Foundation](#) congratulating them on their balanced and accurate approach to children affected by domestic violence. Also worked on a letter to Lindsay Tanner, Minister for Finance and Deregulation, in response to an op-ed published in the Australian newspaper titled [Politics can nudge people to be better](#), in which he stated, “There are a couple of hundred thousand Australian kids who rarely, if ever, see their fathers. Sometimes that’s a good thing, but mostly it’s driven by inertia, irresponsibility or lack of interest.”
  - Wrote and circulated an op-ed titled [It’s not OK to bash men](#) in response to a Sydney Morning Herald article by Adele Horin about a group of vengeful women in the US who glued an unfaithful husband’s genitals to his stomach, then left him trussed up in a motel room. The op-ed was published on the [website](#) of the CA Men’s Centers.
  - Wrote the following (unpublished) letter to the editor of the Sydney Morning Herald:

So a survey of 1700 finance workers found half believed men and women are paid equally for the same job ([Women pay dearly as earnings gap widens](#), August 29). Those workers are correct - men and women are paid equally for the same job when one looks at the hours worked, the tasks done, the skills required, and dozens of other criteria. The pay gap is not due to men being paid more than women for the same jobs, it is because men and women work differently and are paid accordingly. What is scary is that half the workers surveyed believed that men and women are not paid equally for doing the same job!
  - Worked with the MHSa Media Portfolio on a letter to the Health Promotion Journal of Australia regarding two damaging articles: [Australia’s National Men’s Health Policy](#):

*Masculinity Matters* by Margo Saunders and Anita Peerson and *Making men's health policy relevant for the 21st Century* by Helen Keleher.

- Circulated a [media statement](#) from Tanya Plibersek, Federal Minister for Women, about tenders for a new telephone and online crisis service for anyone in Australia who has experienced, or is at risk of, sexual assault and/or domestic and family violence. Raised a number of questions about the service with FaHSCIA, such as 'what services will male victims and female perpetrators of violence be referred to?' FaHSCIA responded to these questions with vague [answers](#) such as "the Service will assess each case individually and refer people to the most appropriate service available" (thus avoiding the issue of the lack of services for male victims and female perpetrators of violence).
- Published the following comment on the Adelaide Advertiser website in response to an article by Callie Watson titled *Men too tough for their own health's good*:

Margot Saunders' view on "masculinity" is akin to saying that women's own attitudes are to blame for their higher rates of eating disorders. We don't blame women for their own health problems (we look at the social context that gives rise to them, and provide appropriate services to help them). We should be doing the same for men. Blaming "masculinity" too often ends up blaming men for their own poor health and lets the health system and the rest of society off the hook. We know that men care about their health just as much as women do, we just need to create a health system that is responsive to men's needs.

## September 2009

- Had the following letter to the editor of the Herald Sun published, as well as appearing as a comment on their [website](#):

### **Violence not greatest killer**

Jill Singer and Rob Hulls make a serious error when they claim that violence against women is the leading cause of death, disease and disability in women aged from 15 to 44 (*Don't take it lying down*, September 10). The top five causes of death, disease and disability for females aged 15 to 44 are in fact anxiety and depression, migraine, type 2 diabetes, asthma and schizophrenia. Violence doesn't even rate a mention. These are the latest (2003) figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, as published on its website.

- Had the following letter to the editor of the Moonee Valley Gazette published:

### **Men fare much worse**

Dr Gregory claims that the gender pay gap leads to "poor health and wellbeing" for women (*Pay status an extra danger*, Moonee Valley Leader, September 7). I would be very interested to hear her explanation for this claim. On every indicator of health and wellbeing: mortality, morbidity, life expectancy, burden of disease, men fare much worse across the board than do women. What Dr Gregory seems to be missing is that women choose work that is safer, less time-consuming, involves less travel, and fits in with their families and lives better than the work men choose. Yes, these choices

mean they get paid less than men on average, but they also lead to women having much better health and wellbeing than men on average.

- Worked extensively with journalist Amanda Davey from the Manly Daily newspaper on a wide-ranging Men & Boys Health Special [feature article](#), prompted by my [It's not OK to bash men](#) op-ed. The article received a number of positive letters to the editor in response.



- Corresponded with Oxfam Australia about the incorrect, unreferenced and unverifiable Gender Equality 'statistics' on their [website](#).
- 1. Wrote to the Office for Women (SA) about the use of false and misleading 'statistics' on their [Don't Cross the Line](#) respectful relationships website. Also collaborated with the MHSA Media Portfolio on a separate letter. As a result of our letters, Stephen Wade MLC [raised the issue](#) in the upper house of the SA Parliament. An official [complaint](#) was lodged with the office of the SA Ombudsman. A media release titled [Minister misleads Parliament on domestic violence](#) was issued. An FOI request was made to retrieve a [report](#) made for the Office for Women by the Office of Crime Statistics and Research about the matter (which largely supported our claims). A further media release titled [Minister admits misleading public on domestic violence](#) was issued. The Ombudsman obtained a [report](#) from the Australian Institute of Criminology about the matter (which largely supported our claims). The Ombudsman eventually published a [report](#) finding that the Office for Women had "published some false and/or misleading information on the *Don't Cross the Line* website"; had "failed to correct information on the website once the possible errors were brought to its attention"; and had "failed to act with reasonable diligence and speed once possible errors were brought to its attention." These were "unreasonable and wrong administrative actions."

As the result of the Ombudsman's report, the Minister for the Status of Women, the Hon Gail Gago made a [statement](#) in Parliament about the matter. A further media release was issued titled [Ombudsman finds domestic violence campaign 'misleading': men's groups call for changes](#). The ABC Radio program *The World Today* [covered](#) the story, a number of other radio interviews were conducted, and articles appeared in the [Sunday Herald Sun](#) (Melbourne), the [Sunday Mail](#) (Adelaide) and on [ABC News](#).

The Office for Women amended its website, removing the factual errors but leaving a list of statistics about violence against women that still incorrectly inferred that relationship violence was something that men do to women. They also failed to undertake their commitment to source a statistic for young people who have witnessed an incident of physical or domestic violence against their father or stepfather. An [open letter](#), with around 30 signatories was sent to the Premier, Mike Rann, urging that the *Don't Cross the Line* campaign (and future respectful relationships and family violence campaigns) be moved from the Office for Women to a more suitable government department (for example, the Attorney General's Department or the Department of the Premier and Cabinet). Further correspondence with the Office for Women, the Minister for the Status of Women and the Ombudsman resulted in a false and misleading statistic about young people who have witnessed an incident of physical or domestic violence against their father or stepfather being posted on, then removed from the *Don't Cross the Line* website.

- Received a favourable [report](#) by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)'s *Independent Complaints Review Panel* (ICRP) into its review of our complaint concerning a White Ribbon Day item broadcast on *The 7.30 Report* on 25 November 2008. A [media release](#) regarding the report was released by the ABC.

The Panel examined our concerns with the claim that “More than one in three Australian women will experience violence inflicted by their partner at some point in their lifetime.” The Panel noted that the distinction between current-partner violence and former-partner violence was an important one in the area of domestic violence. It did not agree that the distinction was brought out by the use of the words ‘at some point in their lifetime’ and concluded that the statement was capable of being understood to refer to the rate of current partner violence. The Panel upheld this aspect of our complaint and recommended that an addition be made to the transcript of the item on the program’s website. This [correction](#) has now been made.

The second aspect of our complaint related to the following statement, “As one insight into an unacceptable national situation, violence is the leading cause of death, disability and illness to Victorian women under the age of 45.” The Panel formed the view that “there was not, in the circumstances, any requirement for the presenter to consider the distinction between ‘cause’ and ‘contributor’ and concluded that “The material available provided a reasonable basis for the making of the statement in the form chosen.” The Panel did not uphold this aspect of our complaint, but only on a technicality (that the reporters did all the reasonable research, not that our statistics were wrong).

Notwithstanding the fact that no breach of ABC editorial standards had been found, ABC News amended the [transcript](#) of the program to more precisely reflect the research on which the statement is based.

## October 2009

- Interviewed by journalist Natasha Wallace from the Sydney Morning Herald for her article [Doctors focus on malaise of men](#), reporting on the release of a new NSW Men's Health Policy and the National Men's Health Gathering in Newcastle:

Greg Andresen, a researcher for Men's Health Australia, said campaigns telling men to eat better and exercise more were not working. "It completely ignores the social context of men's lives ... the data is very clear that most of the dangerous and unhealthy occupations are male-dominated." He said unemployment also potentially had a "devastating" effect on men's health. "These are large social issues that have severe impacts on a man's place in the world yet government policies and health policies haven't addressed them as yet, so it will be really exciting if we move in that direction."



- Wrote letters to [Mr Simon Overland](#), Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police and [Mr Todd Harper](#), CEO of VicHealth, about their use of misleading statements that "VicHealth did a study and confirmed that it [family violence] is the leading cause of harm to women under 45 years, of preventable disease if you like. If you equate it to other diseases that cause damage to women under 45, family violence is the leading preventable cause of harm" and "For women aged 15-to-44 there's nothing bigger, and I think that's staggering in a society today that we still have this violence against women which is a crime, being the biggest cause of health problems for women aged 15-to-44."
- Wrote the following (unpublished) letter to the editors of the Sydney Morning Herald and The Australian newspapers, the AAP news agency and US Congressman Delahunt who was the source of the original report:

Your article [Nicole Kidman to address US Congress about violence against women](#) (Oct 21) stated that "The World Health Organisation estimates violence against women causes more disability and death among women aged 15 to 44 than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war." This, fortunately, is nonsense. The most recent WHO Global Burden of Disease figures show that, of these causes, the burden of disease from cancer is greatest, followed by road traffic accidents, then violence, malaria and war. Cancer is responsible for 3.4 times the burden of disease compared to violence; road traffic accidents 2.3 times the burden.

## November 2009

- Wrote and circulated two media releases from the One in Three Campaign titled [\*New campaign to help abused men launched on International Men's Day\*](#) and [\*White Ribbon schools kit gives boys a bad rap\*](#).
- Published op-ed on Online Opinion website titled [\*One in three victims of family violence is male\*](#).
- Wrote a [letter](#) to the Chair of the Violence against Women Advisory Group and the Minister for the Status of Women, outlining our concerns about the use of incorrect and misleading statistics in the *Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, 2009-2021* report.
- Wrote to journalist Natalie Gregg from the Courier Mail newspaper about errors in her story [\*Violence hits females most\*](#). She eventually conceded the errors and advised that she had asked her editor to print an erratum, but none was ever printed that I am aware of.
- Had the following letter published in the Newcastle Herald:

Unfortunately Jon Chin and the White Ribbon Campaign appear to have little idea of the real facts and figures regarding violence in Australian society (*White ribbon is a real sign of men's strength*, Nov 25). He claims that "violence against women has to be the greatest human rights scandal of our time," when World Health Organisation statistics show that violence against men, on every available indicator, is much more extensive, widespread, and has much greater health impacts, than does violence against women. He claims that "more than 1 million women had been a victim of violence in the previous 12 months", when in fact 443,800 women and 808,300 men had been victims. He claims a study found that "one in three boys believes most violence against women occurs because the woman provoked it," when the study actually found that 33% of young males and 25% of young females agreed with the statement 'most physical violence occurs in dating because a partner provoked it.' These young males and females were equally likely to have experienced domestic violence themselves. The same survey found that while males hitting females was seen, by virtually all young people surveyed, to be unacceptable, it appeared to be quite acceptable for a girl to hit a boy. Many of these girls grow up to be abusive and violent women, an issue on which the White Ribbon Campaign remains silent. Perhaps the public would take the White Ribbon Day's important message more seriously if they got their facts right about violence in Australia. Two in three victims of violence overall are male, one in three victims of sexual assault and family violence are male, and as far as children and young people are concerned, males and females suffer equally from domestic violence and abuse. We need to say no to ALL violence.

Similar letters were sent to the editors of the Sydney Morning Herald, The Age and the Daily Telegraph. The following was published in the Sydney Morning Herald:

Unfortunately Andrew O'Keefe and the White Ribbon Campaign appear to have little idea of the real facts and figures regarding violence in Australian society ([\*Men swear to change\*](#), Nov 25). He claims that "violence outstrips obesity, smoking, drink-driving and breast cancer as the leading contributor to

death, disability and illness for women in the prime of life." Australian Institute of Health & Welfare statistics show that the top five causes of death, disability and illness [combined] for Australian women aged 15-44 years are anxiety and depression, migraine, type 2 diabetes, asthma and schizophrenia. Violence doesn't make the top ten leading causes. The most recent national survey of young Australians aged 12 to 20 found that while males hitting females was seen, by virtually all young people surveyed, to be unacceptable, it appeared to be quite acceptable for a girl to hit a boy. Many of these girls grow up to be abusive and violent women, an issue on which the White Ribbon Campaign remains silent. Perhaps the public would take the White Ribbon Day's important message more seriously if they got their facts right about violence in Australia. Two in three victims of violence overall are male, one in three victims of sexual assault and family violence are male, and as far as children and young people are concerned, males and females suffer equally from domestic violence and abuse. We need to say no to ALL violence.

## December 2009

- Wrote a one-page box on male victims of family violence and abuse for Steve Biddulph's revised edition of the book *Manhood*.
- Wrote and circulated a media release from the One in Three Campaign titled [Anti-violence campaign hails attitude shift on violence against males](#).

- Wrote to Andrew King from Mensline Australia outlining our concerns about the content of the 'Abuse and Violence' section of their [Renovate Your Relationship](#) booklet. The booklet doesn't acknowledge that males can be victims of violence and abuse in relationships or provide advice for these men. The booklet appears to assume that if abuse and violence occur in a relationship, it is the man who must be doing the abusing. The letter suggested that if the booklet is serious about giving advice to men on how to renovate their relationships, and a man is in a relationship in which he is being abused, perhaps it would be a good idea to give him advice on how to find support, how to try to provide safety for himself and his children, or how to take steps to leave the relationship if his partner continues the abuse.



## January 2010

- Wrote and circulated media release from the One in Three Campaign titled [Scotland: domestic violence against men is frequent and often unreported](#).
- Spoke on 93.7FM [Koori Radio](#) 2LND (Sydney) about male victims of domestic violence.

## February 2010

- Wrote a [letter](#) to the Family Law Council asking them to correct false and misleading ‘statistics’ in their report, *Improving responses to family violence in the family law system: An advice on the intersection of family violence and family law issues*. A [response](#) was finally received four months later stating that “Council notes your comments about rates of violence among men and women, but does not agree that the family violence report is affected by serious statistical error. While Council acknowledges your concerns about the data presented, it does not propose to provide an amended report to Government.”
- Wrote letters, co-signed by colleagues, to the Vice-Chancellor of [Monash University](#) and the publisher [Allen & Unwin](#) regarding what we believe to be questionable academic conduct by Professor Thea Brown. Professor Brown made unsubstantiated claims in Monash media releases and her book *Child Abuse and Family Law* that “domestic violence is increasingly reported as a cause of partnership breakdown, with two-thirds of couples in Australia attributing the separation to domestic violence and one-third to severe domestic violence” and “some 30 per cent of all marriages in Australia fail because of domestic violence.” Professor Edwina Cornish, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), conducted an extensive inquiry into the matter resulting in the publication of a [media release](#) by Monash University. Allen & Unwin advised “We consider that the matter has been addressed by Monash University’s statement and do not plan to take further action.” How future purchasers of Thea Brown’s book are supposed to come across Monash’s media release is hard to comprehend. It appears that Allen & Unwin and Thea Brown are happy for readers to be misled by the incorrect ‘statistics’ in the book.

## March 2010

- Circulated Sydney Morning Herald article, [Women’s pay worse than in 1985](#), along with two (unpublished) letters to the editor (below) and a [response](#) by Melanie Phillips from the UK

**Letter 1:** So the graduation rate from Australian universities is 50% higher for women than for men, and many of these these smart, educated women continue to choose to enter low-skilled, low-wage jobs more often than men because they are safer, more satisfying, and provide more flexibility (*Women’s pay worse than in 1985*, March 2). These women make the smart choice: to be paid less, but to live longer, happier, healthier lives. They can do this because men, in general, will happily support their families by working in the dangerous, deadly, health-diminishing jobs that pay better. Where’s the discrimination in this? It’s about time the 1970’s feminist “wage gap” myth was put to rest.

**Letter 2:** To those who persist in propagating the myth of the “gender wage gap” (*Women’s pay worse than in 1985*, March 2), I have one simple request: find me a single example of a woman being paid less than a man for the same work because she is female. Not one industry, not one employer: one single person.

- Wrote and circulated media release from the One in Three Campaign titled [\*Respectful relationships or ‘boy-bashing’?\*](#)
- Re-sent a [letter](#) to the Chair of the Violence against Women Advisory Group and the Minister for the Status of Women, outlining our concerns about the use of incorrect and misleading statistics in the *Time for Action: The National Council’s Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, 2009-2021* report. Received a [reply](#) from Libby Lloyd, addressing our concerns. [Replied](#) to Ms Lloyd straight away. Also corresponded with the Group Manager of the Women’s Safety Section, Safety Taskforce, FaHCSIA.
- Circulated media release from the Federal Minister for Women titled [\*Gender pay gap costs \\$93 billion each year\*](#) and sent the following letter to the editors of News Limited, Sydney Morning Herald and The Age newspapers (my comments were also published on the [Equal Parenting Alliance website](#) in the UK):

So the gap between men and women’s pay remains at 17 per cent, the National Centre of Social Economic Modelling ( NATSEM ) reveals (*Gender gap not cheap*, March 16). It’s important to note that the NATSEM report found no evidence of discrimination against women. The report found that factors such as women’s choices of careers, jobs and work hours, consideration of caring responsibilities, women’s work motivations, bargaining power and appetite for risk, industry segregation and labour force history, all impact on the so-called ‘wage-gap’. In other words, in general, women choose work that pays less as a trade-off for other rewards such as family, safety/health and job satisfaction. Interestingly the Office for Women didn’t commission a study into women’s spending power. If they had, they would have found, as previous studies have done, that women are responsible for spending 70% of family incomes (while men are responsible for earning the majority of family incomes). Who has the real power - the person who earns or the person who spends?

## **April 2010**

- Corresponded with researchers Olav Nielsen and Matthew Large about their journal article *Child homicide in New South Wales from 1991 to 2005* (*Medical Journal of Australia*, 190[1], 7-11), asking them to provide a breakdown of their child homicide findings by perpetrator type (mother, father, step-mother, step-father, etc). The data provided confirmed that, in the combined categories of fatal child abuse, homicide during psychotic illness and retaliatory homicide, mothers were the main perpetrators, followed by fathers and step-fathers who were equally likely to perpetrate child homicide. Mothers and their

new partners (combined) were almost two-and-a-half times as likely as fathers to kill their children.

- Assisted Erin Miller, News and Features Writer with Grazia magazine, with a story she was researching on post-natal depression in new dads.
- Corresponded with Alice Wynne Willson from [Avaaz.org](http://Avaaz.org) about their decision to ignore the thousands of young boys who are raped every year by referring only to women and girls in their [Rape Trade](#) campaign.



## May 2010

- Promoted the release of the [National Male Health Policy](#), and conducted a radio interview on [666 ABC Canberra Drive](#) in response to the launch.
- Gave media comment to Nicole Haddow, Features Writer with ACP Parenting Group, for her article about the new Federal Paid Parental Leave Scheme.
- Interviewed by West Australian newspaper journalist Andrea Mayes for a feature article titled [Men can be victims too](#) promoting the new MAN/ECU [Intimate Partner Abuse of Men](#) study. The article also interviewed a male victim of domestic violence that I connected Ms Mayes with. Also circulated a related Weekend Australian article titled [Abuse of men 'hidden epidemic'](#); a media release from the One in Three Campaign titled [Male victims of domestic violence need campaigns and services: report](#); and a MAN media release titled [Friends, government turn blind eye to male victims: report](#).

## June 2010

- Circulated [article](#) from The West Australian newspaper written by Terri Riley, the Relationships Australia Manager in WA, along with my (unpublished) letter to the editor as follows:

Terri Reilly, chief executive of Relationships Australia (WA), unfortunately sustains many discredited myths about domestic and family violence in her article [Domestic violence figures mask true picture](#) (June 1st). She challenges the fact that one in three victims of family violence and abuse are male, when Australian community surveys, police records, hospital records, homicide statistics and protection orders all support this figure. Research shows that women's use of violence in relationships is no more defensive than is men's violence, and only 5 to 20% of women's violence is in self-defence. The overall physical and emotional impacts upon male victims are the same as for female victims.

Abuse by women has been comprehensively demonstrated to be just as controlling and dominating as abuse by men. And while she is correct that women, as well as men, are reluctant to report their abuse, all the evidence shows that women are twice as likely to report compared to men. We are extremely concerned that the head of Relationships Australia, by telling male victims that they do not, and can not, experience systematic controlling abuse like women can, will prevent them from seeking help from services like Relationships Australia.

- Interviewed by Deborah Robinson, Managing Editor of Australian Women Online, for her article [\*No Support for Male Victims of Domestic Violence\*](#), which was circulated widely.
- Put Vanessa Lawrence, Contributing News & Features Writer for *Grazia* magazine, in touch with a male victim of domestic violence for a feature article she was researching.
- Had the following letter to the editor published in the Sydney Morning Herald in response to an article titled [\*Two mums better than dad\*](#):

#### **Don't do dad down**

Your headline *Two mums better than dad* ([smh.com.au](http://smh.com.au), June 14) is misleading. The US researchers found that children born to and raised by lesbian couples were better off socially and academically, and more competent than their age-matched counterparts in Achenbach's normative sample of American youth. This normative sample, I assume, includes a high percentage of single-parent families. Their findings could probably be summed up better as "Two parents better than one, whether gay or straight".



- Sent the following (unpublished) letter to the editors of the Manly Daily, Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, The Australian, Daily Telegraph, Illawarra Mercury and WA News papers:

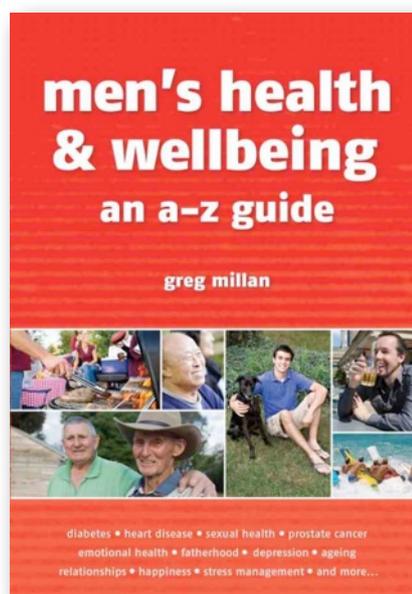
The Sex Discrimination Commissioner Elizabeth Broderick this week released her [\*Gender Equality Blueprint 2010\*](#) document. This document might as well have been titled the "Women's Equality Blueprint 2010" as it completely ignores inequalities that favour females over males (suicide rates, mortality rates across the top ten causes of death, life expectancy, bias in family law, crisis in boys education, higher rates of violence, work-related injury/illness/death, lack of support for fathers, lack of male teachers, etc). If we as a nation are to uphold the principles of human rights and equal opportunity, they must apply to all citizens, not just those who happen to have been born female.

- Did interviews with Jill Emberson from [\*2NC ABC Newcastle\*](#) and Martin King from [\*Melbourne Talk Radio 1377AM\*](#) about a [call](#) for an Office for the Status of Men that appeared in the Daily Telegraph newspaper.

- Worked with author Greg Millan on a section on domestic violence in his new book titled [\*Men's health & wellbeing an a-z guide\*](#). Promoted the Men's Health Week launch of the book.

## July 2010

- Lodged complaint with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) regarding the use of the false and misleading 'statistics' on Channel Ten's *News at Five* in Melbourne that "domestic violence is the leading cause of death and disability in young Victorian women" and that "Victorian women aged between 15 and 44 are more likely to be killed by their partner than by smoking, heart disease or obesity." Also sent material to the ABC *TV Media Watch* program. ACMA determined that the Network Ten (Melbourne) Pty Ltd did *not* breach clause 4.3.1, 4.3.11 or 4.4.1 of the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice 2010.



However, ATV News [acknowledged](#) that the news item broadcast factually inaccurate material by:

- referring to domestic violence as the leading 'cause' of death and disability in young Victorian women, as opposed to the leading 'contributor' of death, disability and illness, and
- referring to Victorian women aged between 15 and 44 as being more likely to be killed by their partner than by smoking, heart disease or obesity, rather than intimate partner violence being more responsible for the disease burden than the other risk factors described.

The ACMA [report](#) found that the licensee failed to comply with the requirements of clause 4.3.1 of the Code in that it did not present factual material accurately during its broadcast of the news item in question. However, the failure to comply with clause 4.3.1 of the Code is not a breach of the Code because that failure was due to reasonable reliance on information supplied by another person (a media release approved by VicHealth).

- Wrote [letter](#) to the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs about issuing false and misleading information about the

Productivity Commission's recommendations on Paid Parental Leave. Received [reply](#) from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs acknowledging that errors had been made.

- Supplied an editorial on male victims of violence, along with images to [Foundation 49](#) for their *On the Ball* newsletter.
- Created and circulated a new [podcast](#) from the One in Three Campaign.

## August 2010

- Spoke at length with a researcher from Myriad Consultants who had been contracted by the Child Support Agency (CSA) to assist them with an evaluation of their existing approach to family violence, with a view to engaging key stakeholders who may be best placed to offer feedback to the CSA in relation to issues that might be impacting on clients in relation to post separation violence and child support arrangements, and elicit any particular suggestions about how the CSA can improve its responsiveness within government and legislative frameworks. Unfortunately our views appear not to have been taken on board, as Myriad's [Final Report](#) indicates.
- Discovered that lobbying efforts by the MHSA Media Portfolio to the *Better Health Channel* website in Victoria had been successful at achieving a gender-neutral re-write of their fact sheets ([here](#) and [here](#)) about children and domestic violence.
- Wrote letters to the editor of the Adelaide Advertiser in response to an [article](#) that incorrectly reported that:

Australian women waking up this morning had a one-in-three chance the man next to them would one day "slap and kick" them and then say "I love you, babe", Victims of Crime Commissioner Michael O'Connell has told a conference in Tokyo.

It also erroneously reported that one in three women are domestic abuse victims; that a quarter of Australian children had witnessed violence against their mother (neglecting to mention that a quarter has also witnessed violence against their father); and that one in 20 men believed women who were raped often 'ask for it'. As no letters were published, a complaint was made to the Australian Press Council who liaised with the



**'One in three' domestic abuse victims**  
MILES KEMP | The Advertiser | August 19, 2010 8:28pm | 36 comments

Recommend Send 66 people recommend this. Be the first of your friends. 5 Followed Share

**AUSTRALIAN women waking up this morning had a one-in-three chance the man next to them would one day "slap and kick" them and then say "I love you, babe", Victims of Crime Commissioner Michael O'Connell has told a conference in Tokyo.**

Mr O'Connell attacked the Australian attitude to violence against women at the conference on Sunday, calling for "cultural change" to stop physical and sexual violence against women.

"If I were a woman in Australia I'd roll out of bed in the morning knowing the chances are one in three that the guy next to me will say 'I love you, babe' after he's slapped and kicked me," he said.

Date/Time: 2010-03-22 14:32:16  
Source: The Sunday Telegraph

newspaper, leading to the publication of the following letter. Comments were also successfully left on the Advertiser [website](#), and email contact was made with the subject of the article, Michael O’Connell, who suggested that the errors lay with the journalist, and not himself.

### **Beliefs on violence**

Your article *Domestic abuse shame* (The Advertiser, 20/8) claimed that “the poor attitude of Australian men to violence against women is evidenced by a 2006 Victorian survey which found one in 20 believed women who were raped often ‘ask for it’.” This survey actually found that 6 per cent (about one in 20) people (not men) agreed with the statement “Women who are raped often ask for it”. So, yes, there are still a few people who hold unacceptable beliefs about sexual violence against women. However, there are far more who hold unacceptable beliefs about violence against men. The National Crime Prevention survey found that young people are more likely to say a woman is right to, or has good reason to, respond to a situation by hitting, than a man in the same situation. Overall for situations where men might hit their female partners, 49 per cent of young people said that he would be right to, or have a good reason to hit her, in at least one of the situations presented. In situations where women might hit their male partners, 68 per cent of young people said that she would be right to, or have a good reason to, hit him in at least one of the situations presented. And while males hitting females was seen, by virtually all young people surveyed, to be unacceptable, it appeared to be quite acceptable for a girl to hit a boy (25 per cent of young people agreed with the statement “When girl hits a guy, it’s really not a big deal”).

- [Wrote](#) to the Australian Democrats (political party) about a number of serious statistical errors contained in their Status of Women policy. Received a reply from Dr James Page indicating that the errors would be fixed once the Federal Election was over, but this never occurred despite numerous follow-up emails.

### **September 2010**

- Wrote to Victorian Attorney-General, the Hon Rob Hulls MP and AFL Chief Executive Mr Andrew Demetriou about the use of incorrect and misleading statistics in their media release of 15th September titled [Brumby government and AFL promote respect for women](#) which claimed that “Family violence remains the leading cause of preventable death, disability and illness in Victorian women aged 15 to 44.” This was the second time the Attorney-General had been caught misleading the public with this ‘statistic’ and he had previously assured us it would not happen again. A [reply](#) was received in October 2010 from the Victims Support Agency once again assuring us that “the Government will endeavour to ensure that the statistic you refer to is quoted correctly.”

### **October 2010**

- Wrote letters to the editor to four major Australian news outlets in response to an AAP [report](#) which incorrectly claimed that “Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures show

that, at some stage in their lives, almost one in three Australian women will experience physical violence in a domestic setting” and “only one in 10 women seek help.” As no letters were initially published, a complaint was made to the Australian Press Council who [liaised](#) with the news outlets, persuading them to print letters or issue retractions. The AAP news agency circulated an erratum. SBS World News and the Shepparton News removed the article from their websites. The Canberra Times printed an erratum. The Sydney Morning Herald and Brisbane Times corrected their online articles.

- Interviewed Dr Warren Farrell, best-selling author of *The Myth Of Male Power*, *Father and Child Reunion* and *Why Men Earn More* for the occasion of International Men’s Day 2010. The interview – which covered issues as varied as the glass ceiling (and glass cellar), negative male imagery in the media, the benefits to children of having involved fathers, and the need for a “gender transition movement” – is available [online](#) on YouTube and also as a written transcript.
- Had the following letter to the editor published in the Canberra Times in response to a [previous article](#):

It was so refreshing to finally see a feature article on domestic violence that talked about male as well as female victims (*When violence hits home*, October 13, p4). However, Lucy Baker claimed men make up a “small minority” of victims of domestic violence. The same 2005 ABS survey cited in your article found that men were just as likely as women to be victims of violence from perpetrators known to them, and almost as likely as women to be assaulted in their homes. The Australian Institute of Criminology found that 48.7% of adult victims of family homicide in 2006-07 were male - hardly a small minority! The One in Three Campaign website ([oneinthree.com.au](http://oneinthree.com.au)) is a good source of reliable statistics about male victims of family violence.

## November 2010

- Produced and promoted an International Men’s Day [video message](#) by Dr. Warren Farrell, author of *The Myth of Male Power*, *Father and Child Reunion* and *Why Men Earn More*, warning of the dire global consequences of ignoring the current boy crisis.
- Wrote an [open letter](#) signed by myself and eighteen other concerned individuals and organisations, regarding a series of serious statistical errors by the White Ribbon Foundation, to Andrew O’Keefe, Chairman of the Foundation, and the entire board. The errors were contained in a document [What about the men? White Ribbon, men and violence](#) sent by the White Ribbon Campaign to its ambassadors.
- Wrote an [open letter](#) signed by myself and thirty other concerned individuals and organisations to the Hon Kate Ellis MP, Minister for the Status of Women. The letter outlined our concerns that a high-profile non-government organisation in receipt of

substantial federal funding (the White Ribbon Foundation), might be misleading the general public about the very serious issue of violence in our communities. The letter requested that the Minister personally take steps to ensure that the White Ribbon Foundation does not mislead the public – either intentionally or unintentionally – with false or misleading information about violence while in receipt of public funding. A [response](#) from the Minister was received which completely ignored the substance of our letter, instead stating “The funding allocated to the White Ribbon Foundation is an important part of the Australian Government’s overall strategy to reduce family violence and sexual assault in this country.” A follow-up [letter](#) was sent to the minister, and another unsatisfactory [reply](#) was received.

- Wrote and circulated a media release titled [Federal funding ‘misused’ by White Ribbon Campaign](#) to bring media attention to the above two letters to the White Ribbon Campaign and the Minister for the Status of Women. Did a radio interview with ABC Radio’s Fiona Wiley. Received a reply from MP George Christensen stating, “I share your concern. Have you raised this matter with the Coalition Shadow Minister for Women’s Affairs Ms Sophie Mirabella?” The media release was circulated to all Federal MPs including Ms Mirabella.
- Wrote and circulated the latest *One in Three Campaign* [Newsletter](#) about male victims of family violence.
- Sent the following (unpublished) letter to the editors of the Sydney Morning Herald, Illawarra Mercury, Daily Telegraph, The Australian and The Age newspapers:

Most Australians would agree that people need to be protected from genuine cases of violence and abuse. They would also agree that losing a relationship with one’s children on the basis of malicious false allegations is harmful both to the children and to the parent who is subjected to false allegations. Instead of supporting both victims of violence and victims of false allegations, the proposed changes to the family law act wind back protections against false allegations, while strengthening provisions designed to protect women and children from violence and abuse. Why did the Labor Government commission a range of inquiries designed to find out whether women and children were being adequately protected from violence and abuse by our Family Law system; while not launching a single inquiry to find out whether men were being adequately protected from false allegations of violence and abuse? This smacks of a government pushing an agenda and constructing ‘evidence’ to support it, rather than an even-handed look at all sides of the issue.

## December 2010

- Wrote to the Crime Prevention office of the Federal Attorney General's Department about errors contained in one of their Fact Sheets: No.10 [Young People and Domestic Violence](#). As the office had no resources to correct the Fact Sheet and/or issue an erratum, the Fact Sheet was removed from their website - an adequate compromise. Regrettably links to the (correct) full study were inadvertently removed, but after further correspondence, were again restored.



## January 2011

- Assisted a journalist from Dolly Magazine who was writing a [feature](#) on girls who bash their boyfriends and wanted to know if we could put her in contact with a young male who had been in this situation and would be willing to share their experience.
- Sent the following (unpublished) letter to the editor of The Australian newspaper:

Thankyou for your article on jockey suicides (Weekend Australian Magazine, Jan 29-30). The dangers and pressures of work are suicide factors for men in many other fields, not just jockeying. Society's dirtiest, most dangerous, least healthy and lowest status jobs are done overwhelmingly by men: on dangerous construction sites, working the land, out at sea or underground in mines. At 4am who do you see working in dangerous public environments? Bouncers and barmen, cabbies and cops, garbagemen and security guards, truckies and tradies getting an early start. Over 90% of people killed in the workplace are men. Sadly, many male suicides are recorded as 'accidents'. The farmer who 'accidentally' shoots himself while climbing through the fence, just before the bank forecloses on the family farm. The unemployed labourer who normally doesn't drink, but wraps himself, drunk, around a tree on a straight stretch of road. The drug overdose. Officially 4 men suicide for every woman, but unofficially it's more like 10:1. More men kill themselves each year than the entire road toll. Let's get rid of the modern myth that most suicides are due to 'mental illness': men typically kill themselves due to severe social stressors, e.g. loss of a relationship, loss of or failure to gain employment, financial problems, sexual abuse or physical assault.

## February 2011

- Made a request, under the Freedom of Information Act 1982, to obtain copies of all public submissions lodged in response to the public consultation process into the [Family Law Amendment \(Family Violence\) Bill 2010 - Exposure Draft](#), as the Attorney General's Department had avoided public transparency by not publishing the submissions as is normal practice. The Department eventually sent an incomplete set of documents, some four months later (the legal deadline is 30 days). After further follow-up, we were advised that the missing documents would be couriered to us. They were finally received in August - some 6 months after the initial request.

## March 2011

- Organised an interview with Mensline Australia for Channel 10 News in relation to the Arthur Freeman child homicide case, advising what men should do after separation when things become difficult and which services they should contact.
- Circulated an Adelaide Advertiser article by the Minister for Finance, Penny Wong, titled [Wong: Equality still elusive](#), along with the following comment that I posted on the website:

Yes, in the 1960s women in the public service had to make a choice - family or career. Men in the 1960s had no such choice - they had to have a career to work to provide for their family. They weren't allowed to choose to stay home and raise their kids while their partner worked. Not much has changed in Australia today with men by and large still expected to be the breadwinner while women have more choices about whether to work, raise children or do a combination of the two (there is no government paternity leave available, for example). Ms Wong also has her facts wrong when she says that "Australian women currently earn 83c for every dollar earned by men in an equivalent job". Men and women in equivalent jobs actually earn exactly the same amount - it is illegal to pay otherwise. What she meant to say (and I can't believe our Finance Minister is so ignorant!) is that women on average earn 83% of what men earn on average. This is largely due to the job choices that men and women freely make. Not many women choose to do dangerous but highly paid work such as mining and construction, for example. Not many men choose to do fulfilling but safe and lower paid work such as childcare.



- Wrote a [letter](#) to the Federal Minister for the Status of Women, the Hon Kate Ellis MP, raising concerns about the use of incorrect and misleading statistics in her address to the National Press Club *Celebrating 100 years of International Women's Day*. In her address, Ms Ellis claimed that "intimate partner violence is the leading cause of death, disability and injury amongst women in [Victoria] who are aged between 15 and 44." Received a [reply](#) from the Minister acknowledging our concerns, with a boilerplate comment that "it is important that all organisations maintain a dialogue on the most up to date research and evidence for action against violence in this country."
- Contacted Amnesty International Australia asking for a reference for their 'statistic' that "some 4 million women in Australia have experienced violence at home, intimidation by their loved ones or sexual abuse at some stage of their lives." Received a reply containing numerous statistical errors. [Wrote back](#) citing the correct statistics and asking that Amnesty be more careful in future when citing violence statistics in their campaigns,

something they have consistently failed to do since 2004, despite an [extensive inquiry](#) in 2005 by Gita Sahgal, Head of the Gender Unit, Amnesty International, London, at my request, which concluded that “the forensic statistician Mary Gray has strongly advised Amnesty International to use expert help when attempting to interpret statistics. She has pointed out that we always get expert help to interpret other forms of evidence employed to make our case and that we should not be any less rigorous in the use of statistics” and “we shall be recommending that AI should in future consult a statistician who can give expert advice on the use of statistics.”

- Sent the following (unpublished) letter to the editor of the Sydney Morning Herald:

So Julia Gillard is in Washington arguing that education as a universal right that must be afforded to all women. Hear, hear! Unfortunately she seems not to believe the same should be afforded to our boys. Australian females currently graduate from our universities at a 50 per cent higher rate than their male counterparts (that's over 31,000 more women than men each year), yet not a whisper from our PM.

- Had the following letter to the editor published in the Hobart Mercury in response to an article titled [Helping hand for abused](#) containing incorrect and misleading ‘statistics’ on domestic violence:

#### **Men suffer too**

The story [Helping hand for abused](#) (Mercury, March 23) contained the quote “57 per cent of Australian women experience at least one incident of abuse in their lifetime, with around 350,000 experiencing physical violence and 125,000 victims of sexual violence each year”.

The correct figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) are that 39.9 per cent of females and 50.1 per cent of males experience at least one incident of abuse in their lifetime, with around 350,000 females and 750,000 males experiencing physical violence; and 125,000 females and 50,000 males victims of sexual violence each year.

The story also reported that “although men are occasionally the victims, more than 95 per cent of domestic violence is attributed to men abusing women and children”.

This is also incorrect: the ABS reports that 29.8 per cent (almost one in three) victims of current partner violence since the age of 15 are male. You can find a wealth of similar statistics on our website.

- Wrote the following letter to the editor of the [Adelaide Review](#) monthly magazine. I spoke to the editor who gave a commitment to publish my concerns in an upcoming edition. This has not happened to date despite a recent assurance by the editor that he “will be back in Adelaide from tomorrow for 6 days so will certainly attend to this.”

There are serious statistical errors in Louise Pascal's story *Behind Closed Doors* (February 2011). Pascal claims the ABS estimate one in three women experience abuse from an intimate partner, when the actual figure is one in six since the age of 15 (or one in 67 during the last 12 months). She goes on to claim that the number of reported cases has not diminished in decades. The ABS found that between 1996 and 2006 violence against women during the last 12 months by a current partner dropped from

104,800 to 43,800 cases - an almost 60% drop; violence against women by a previous partner dropped from 75,800 to 70,800 cases - a 7% drop.

In addition to these factual errors the entire article clearly infers that domestic violence and child abuse are something that men do to women and children. At least one in three victims of family violence are male as demonstrated by many studies at [oneinthree.com.au/overview](http://oneinthree.com.au/overview). The most recent Australian child abuse data to be released (from the Department for Child Protection in Western Australia) showed that compared with fathers, mothers were responsible for 95% of neglect cases, 68% of emotional/psychological abuse cases, 53% of physical abuse cases and 13% of sexual abuse cases. The latest child homicide statistics from the Australian Institute of Criminology show that in 2006-07, 11 homicide perpetrators were mothers, 5 were mother's partners, and 5 were fathers.

## April 2011

- Commissioned new data – financed by the generous members of the [\*Men's Rights Agency\*](#) – from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Personal Safety Survey 2005 (PSS) which showed that
  - a) there were no statistically significant differences in the prevalence rates between women and men experiencing physical assault by known perpetrators in the last 12 months (2.6% or 198,500 women and 2.7% or 213,100 men).
  - b) in their most recent incident of physical assault by male and female perpetrators in the last 12 months, the difference in estimates for men and women reporting physical assault by a male or female family member/ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend were not statistically significant. However this information does not infer that there were no differences in the overall prevalence of men and women experiencing physical assault by family members/ex-boyfriends/ex-girlfriends.
  - c) 28 per cent (around one in three) people who experienced physical assault by an intimate partner (current partner, previous partner, boyfriend, girlfriend or date) in the last 12 months were male.
  - d) the characteristics of the location of the most recent incidents of physical assault by males and females in the last 12 months showed that while men experienced almost equal numbers of most recent assaults by male and female perpetrators in a home; and while women experienced almost five times as many most recent assaults by male compared to female perpetrators in a home; the total number of most recent assaults experienced in a home was similar for men and women. It is not possible to generate estimates for the total number of persons who experienced physical assault in a home.Charts for this new data are available [here](#).

- Received an email from Kate Alexander, National Marketing & Communications Manager and Executive Officer, NSW, for the White Ribbon Foundation, drawing our attention to a [response](#) by the Foundation to our concerns of November 2010 and requesting a meeting with herself and the Foundation's new CEO, Libby Davies.
- Spoke with freelance journalist Nick Kraegen who was researching an article on the men's rights movement for the Australian edition of FHM Magazine.

- Posted the following comment on the NT News [website](#) below an article *Graphic ads portray domestic violence* about new domestic violence TV ads in the NT:

The largest Australian survey on Young People and Domestic Violence found that 21% of young people aged 12 to 20 in the NT have witnessed physical male to female parental violence, while 26% have witnessed physical female to male domestic violence (ie. they are 24% more likely to have seen mum/stepmum hitting dad/stepdad than the other way around). [http://misc.com.au/Young\\_People\\_and\\_Domestic\\_Violence\\_-\\_full\\_report.pdf](http://misc.com.au/Young_People_and_Domestic_Violence_-_full_report.pdf).

The government should also be putting out ads targeted at women.



- Had the following letter to the editor of the NT News published:

**Women cause violence too**

The latest series of graphic domestic violence TV ads ask men who use violence to “stop the hurting . . . start the healing” – as they should. But the largest Australian survey of young people and domestic violence found that 21 per cent of young people aged 12 to 20 in the NT have witnessed physical male to female parental violence, while 26 per cent have witnessed female to male violence (ie they are 24 per cent more likely to have seen mum/stepmum hitting dad/stepdad than the other way around). The Government should also release ads advising women who use violence to seek help.

- Wrote the following (unpublished) letter to the editor of the Newcastle Herald:

Tanya Plibersek, Federal Minister for Human Services and Social Inclusion, asserted today that “Domestic violence claims more Australian women under 45 than any other health risk, including cancer” ([Hunter domestic violence spotlight](#), 11th April). To give you an idea of the magnitude of this error, here are the number of deaths each year of Australian women under 45 for the top 5 causes of death, and from domestic violence: cancer 757, accidents and adverse affects 410, suicide and self-inflicted injury 256, diseases of the circulatory system 248, diseases of the digestive system 81, domestic violence homicides 54. Her claim that “the vast, vast majority of victims are women” is also not supported by data: Australian men and women are almost equally likely to suffer physical violence in the home and from persons known to them.

- [Wrote](#) to the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for Human Services and Minister for Social Inclusion about her above [quote](#) in the Newcastle Herald, asking her to use more

care when quoting the ‘statistic’ in the future. The Minister replied “Domestic violence against women has some even more shocking statistics that I’m sure you’re aware of. But thanks for bringing this to my attention.”

- Wrote letters to the editors of the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age newspapers in response to an op-ed by Dr Debbie Kirkwood, Researcher, Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria, titled [\*Men’s murderous revenge\*](#). A [letter](#) was also sent to Dr Kirkwood, who [replied](#) some months later. Neither newspaper printed my letter, so a complaint was lodged with the Australian Press Council noting that the entire thrust of the article was based on the premise that only men or mostly men kill children in cases of family homicide/revenge/homicide-suicide, but the statistics do not support this assertion. The complaint was not upheld, but an [explanation](#) was received from The Age stating:



The Age received several letters from readers in response to the article by Dr Debbie Kirkwood, a researcher at the Domestic Violence Resource Centre, Victoria. The great majority supported Dr Kirkwood’s views. Four letters were published, three in support and one that was critical of her views. The latter made a similar point to Mr Andresen, as its author claimed that the article was ‘flawed in not recognising that mothers also display this behaviour. Choosing not to include examples of other high-profile cases in which the mother murdered her children points to a bias’ (Guy Hoschke, Sunshine North).

## May 2011

- Commissioned new [data](#) from the Australian Institute of Criminology’s *National Homicide Monitoring Program* showing that in 2007/08, children were almost twice as likely to be killed by their mother or her new partner than by their father.
- Did an interview with journalist Jessica Kay about the Federal Government’s new [Paid Parental Leave Scheme](#).
- Spoke with Tamara Balaban, a journalist at Griffith University in Brisbane, for a feature article about men as victims of domestic abuse and violence in intimate partner relationships.

- Had the following letter to the editor published in the Sydney Morning Herald, in response to a [misleading article](#) about filicide:

You would think from reading your article *Obsessive love lost: why some fathers kill* (May 18) that it is only fathers who kill their children to punish their partners. Comprehensive recent research published in 2009 by Nielssen et al in the Medical Journal of Australia examined in detail all cases of child homicide in NSW between 1991 and 2005. It found that, in cases of family homicide/vengeance/homicide-suicide like the tragic recent Kyla Rogers case, men were the perpetrators of child homicide in ten cases, while women were the perpetrators in seven cases. Regretfully, the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children is silent when it comes to children killed by their mothers.

- Wrote and circulated media release titled [Minister misleads Federal Parliament about Family Violence](#) detailing the use of false and misleading statistics about family violence by the Minister for the Status of Women, the Hon Kate Ellis MP.
- Received [letter](#) from Federal Minister for the Status of Women, the Hon Kate Ellis MP, in response to our letter asking her to investigate the use of false and misleading statistics by the White Ribbon Foundation in 2010. Drafted a reply, incorporating our concerns about her use of false and misleading statistics in Federal Parliament.
- Quoted by journalist Helen Gregory in her feature article [Broken Bonds: Catalysts for Family Disputes](#) about child homicides in the context of family law:

To focus solely on men who kill their children would be only half the story.

The Child Homicide in NSW 1991-2005 report, which was published in the Medical Journal of Australia 2009, categorised child homicides as retaliatory killings, homicide during psychotic illness, deaths arising from child abuse, fatal sexual assault, teenage homicide, infant homicide and other child homicides.

From 1991 to 2005 there were 30 child homicides that seem to have been motivated by some form of retaliation. Ten men and seven women were responsible for the 30 deaths.

Men's Health Australia researcher Greg Andresen said the difference of three was "not statistically significant" and showed women were almost as likely to kill their children out of retaliation as men.

Gabriela Garcia, 35, jumped off the West Gate Bridge with her 22-month-old son Oliver strapped to her chest on June 4, 2008, six months before Darcey died in the same place. Garcia said in suicide notes that she feared losing custody of her son, although Oliver's father denied any intention to seek custody.

Former Gosford resident Allyson McConnell was charged in February last year with murdering her two sons in Canada and will stand trial in a Canadian court next year. She was involved in custody proceedings with the father of her children at the time of their deaths.

"There's a deeply held and cherished belief that mothers are caring, intelligent human beings that would never hurt their kids," Andresen said.

“By and large that’s true, but it’s also true of fathers. Exposing cases of mothers killing their kids threatens that belief.”

Nagle said men committing child homicides received more media attention because they were usually more violent in nature.

“So the cause of death or injury is something quite extreme,” he said.

“Whereas women might be more passive in their killing and a mother may smother a child, it’s different to a father throwing a child off a bridge or driving into water.”

Despite the wide coverage of these tragic incidents, child homicides are rare.

The very small number of separated parents who kill their children lie at the extreme end of the spectrum.

But what about the rest, who don’t harm their children and live with their anguish every day?

Researcher Andresen said men often suffered worse outcomes than women after relationship breakdowns. Not only were they less likely to receive custody or have access to their children, they were more likely to have difficulty in talking about what they were going through...

...But ultimately, according to Andresen, society needs to change its definition of masculinity and the way it raises sons.

“Men have been raised to be told to be a man means you have to be strong, independent, resourceful, take it on the chin and never be weak or wimpy,” Andresen said.

“We actually need to encourage them that asking for help is a sign of masculine strength.

“Let them know it’s OK to ask for help, it doesn’t make them any less of a man.”

- Assisted Felicity Benedikovic, a freelance journalist, writer and editor, with a story she was writing on International Men’s Health Week for the [NSW Seniors Card newsletter](#).

## June 2011

- Wrote an op-ed for Online Opinion titled [Government deception won’t reduce family violence](#), highlighting our concerns about the use of false and misleading statistics by the Federal Minister for Women and state offices for women, along with our concerns that the proposed changes to the Family Law Act will favour those who choose to lie in court, using false allegations of violence and abuse as a legal tactic.
- Wrote the following unpublished letter to the editor, followed by a [complaint](#) to the Australian Press Council regarding the use of incorrect and misleading statistics in a



Sunday Herald Sun article. The Press Council [decided](#) not to pursue our complaint because “the article is not about domestic violence, it is about violence against women by their partners.”

Unfortunately Robyn Riley’s ‘facts’ about domestic violence are wrong ([Wife-beaters our terrifying shame](#), June 5). She tells us that “a woman is killed almost every week in Australia by a male partner or ex-partner” while ignoring the fact that 57 men per year are killed by an offender with whom they shared a principle domestic relationship. She claims that “violence against women is the leading cause of death, disability and illness in Victoria women aged 15-44” when actually the leading causes are anxiety and depression, migraine, type 2 diabetes, asthma and schizophrenia - violence doesn’t even make the top ten causes. She says “around one in four children and young people have witnessed violence against their mother or stepmother” while omitting the fact that that same percentage of young people have witnessed violence against their father or step-father. Lastly she tells us that 25,000 women in Victoria last year made calls to crisis centres - unfortunately male victims don’t have this option, as there are no such centres to assist them. Domestic violence doesn’t discriminate according to gender, geography, socio-economic status, age, ability, sexual preference, culture, race or religion.

- Wrote and circulated media release titled [AIC report ‘ignores key research on young people and domestic violence’](#) revealing that a new Australian Institute of Criminology report [Children’s exposure to domestic violence in Australia](#) completely ignored the largest ever Australian survey of young people and domestic violence. Conducted radio interview with Chris Lewis from from PowerFM in South Australia about the issue. [Wrote](#) to the report’s author Dr. Kelly Richards, asking whether the research was inadvertently omitted from her publication, or whether she made a conscious decision not to include it. Her reply was as follows: “As a short summary of issues, my paper was unfortunately unable to cover all relevant material on the topic of children’s exposure to domestic violence. In addition, the survey you mention is a little out of date now, and was therefore not included.” Sent a [reply](#), which to-date hasn’t been responded to.
- Had the following letter to the editor of the Sunday Age published in response to a [misleading editorial](#) by Farrah Tomazin about family violence:

**Let’s not forget men**

Farrah Tomazin’s story about family violence ([Let’s not forget about crime’s other heartland: the home](#), 19/6) suggests that only women and children are victims. The data doesn’t support this assertion. For example, Ms Tomazin writes “one woman is killed almost every week by a partner or ex-partner” but neglects to mention that more than one man per week is killed by an offender with whom they share a principle domestic relationship. It’s important to make the point that women and their children can be victims of family violence, and that there aren’t enough resources to meet their needs. There is no need to ignore male victims and their children in the process.

## 2. Lobbying and networking

### June 2009

- Sent accurate domestic violence literature to a person within the ranks of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) who was attempting to reform ALP policy on the issue to acknowledge male victims.
- Exchanged website links with [Women's Health in the South East](#) (VIC) after receiving an email from them stating, "delighted to see your website – many of our (women) clients ask – where can we get similar services and information for our men?"
- Worked with colleagues from the AMHF on an email campaign in support of a National Male Health Policy.

### July 2009

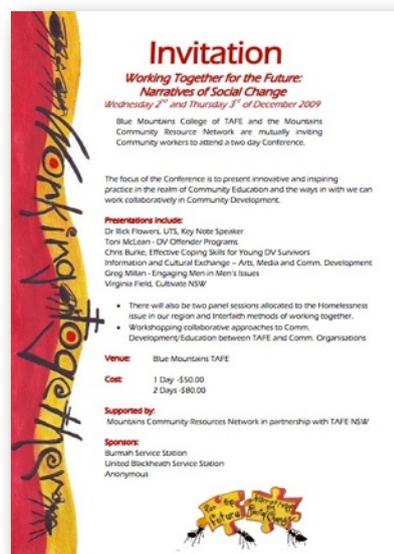
- Attended a teleconference with supporters of the need to establish a National Peak Body for Men and Boys.
- Organised with Ron Parnell (editor) to host the [Mister](#) e-newsletter on the Men's Health Australia website.

### August 2009

- Sent a list of references on boys' education to a member of a school council at a school with all women teachers, where the female principal had thankfully decided to research boys and learning.
- Assisted a TAFE student with setting up the [Working Together for the Future](#) conference in the Blue Mountains for the Community Service Industry presenting the needs of men in domestic violence situations.

### October 2009

- Corresponded with South Australian Labor MP Tony Piccolo about the possibility of raising our concerns about false and misleading statistics in the [Don't Cross the Line](#) relationship violence campaign with the Minister for Women, Gail Gago.



## November 2009

- Assisted Ray Barry from the [Equal Parenting Alliance](#) in the UK with finding peer reviewed studies of equal parenting in countries that have tried equal parenting legislation to some extent.

## December 2009

- Corresponded with Crisis Support Services about the omission of Mensline Australia from the Department of Defence support websites for service personnel (for example [here](#) and [here](#)).

## January 2010

- Wrote [letters](#) to the members of the [Senate Select Committee on Men's Health](#) regarding the Federal Office for Women's call for tenders for members of a [Panel Arrangement of Gender Experts \(Gender Panel\)](#), asking for assurance that members of the new Gender Panel will represent the interests of men as well as women in an equitable manner.

## March 2010

- Attended a meeting of men's organisations at Parliament House, Sydney, to discuss the proposed rollback of federal shared parenting laws.

## April 2010

- Attended the [Symposium on Male Studies](#) at Wagner College, NY (USA) via webinar.

## May 2010

- Attended the launch and breakfast seminar for the new book by Maggie Hamilton titled [What's Happening to Our Boys](#). Recorded the seminar featuring Dr. Arne Rubinstein for the [Dads on the Air](#) radio program.

## June 2010

- Attended a workshop put on by [MAN](#) for service providers in Perth during International Men's Health Week titled [Abused Men: What are the implications for service provision of the report on intimate partner abuse of men?](#)



## September 2010

- Provided links to men's health conference and family violence information to Dr. Jacques Collard, Senior Research and Policy Analyst, Safety Taskforce, FaHCSIA.

## January 2011

- Convened a teleconference (sponsored by the AMHF) with major men's organisations to develop a co-ordinated strategy in response to the Federal Government's proposed [\*Family Law Amendment \(Family Violence\) Bill 2010\*](#).

## March 2011

- Wrote a [letter of support](#) to King's International College on the Gold Coast for their application to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal for exemption under the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 to conduct a male only Certificate III in Childcare. Followed this up with a phone conversation with Julie Ball from the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Commission. Sadly, the application was [denied](#).
- Attended Men's Health Services' [Working with men affected by violence](#) workshop held in Sydney.

## April 2011

- Attended the [Uses and abuses of crime statistics](#) briefing session put on by the Sydney Law School and the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

## May 2011

- Met with the new CEO of the White Ribbon Foundation, Libby Davies, and National Marketing & Communications Manager and Executive Officer, NSW, Kate Alexander. We talked about ways in which our respective organisations might be able to co-exist in the future. Some ideas explored were:
  - To agree on a common set of statistics/data on which to base our work
  - To both issue media releases in areas where we overlap (e.g. genuine respectful relationships programs for boys and girls)
  - For both of us, as much as possible, to avoid gender competition in our work (i.e. 'men vs women' thinking) and simply lobby for our respective constituents (e.g.

instead of saying “women experience x times as much domestic violence as men,” just say “x% of women experience domestic violence” and likewise for men).

- Corresponded with the Australian Bureau of Statistics about their upcoming Personal Safety Survey (PSS) 2012 to try to ensure that the survey accurately captures male experiences of violence and abuse. The following issues were raised:
  - (a) Our concerns that three times as many female as male respondents will be surveyed
  - (b) Problems with the PSS focusing on family violence data for co-habiting partners (making data on violence from boyfriends and girlfriends and other family members hard to access)
  - (c) Problems with the PSS’s definition of ‘previous partner’ (which conflates data on violence from previous current partners, violence from previous ex-partners, and violence from current ex-partners)
  - (d) Problems with the 2005 report focusing on the experiences of male and female victims of violence rather than prevalence rates for the entire population
  - (e) The omission of much data surveyed in the 2005 PSS from the final published report
  - (f) The collapsing of *parent* and *step-parent* categories for child abuse in the 2005 PSS
  - (g) Our concern that no men’s organisations were included in the Survey Advisory Group
  - (h) Our concerns that the ABS has chosen not to have a gender balance in their interview staff for the 2012 PSS unless a male interviewer is specifically requested by a male respondent
  - (i) Our concerns that the wording of the survey instrument is not sensitive to male responses (by using the language “with the intent to harm or frighten you”)
  - (j) Problems with the wording of the new emotional abuse component that overemphasises women’s experiences of abuse.
- Co-presented a paper and panel session titled *Meeting the needs of male victims of domestic and family violence* at the Australian Institute of Criminology’s [\*Meeting the Needs of Victims of Crime\*](#) conference in



Sydney on May 19th, alongside Toni Mclean, Greg Millan and Dr Elizabeth Celi. You can watch or listen to the session, read transcripts, and download Powerpoint presentations from [here](#). Also took part in audio interviews on the day about male victims of family violence for Dr Celi's website.

## **June 2011**

- Attended the Australian Institute of Male Health and Studies (AIMHS) inaugural Male Studies Symposium in Adelaide titled *[From Boyhood to Manhood: Difficulties and Challenges of Transition](#)*. Recorded the event for the AMIHS [website](#) and the *[Dads on the Air](#)* radio program.
- Provided accurate statistics on family violence for colleagues in Tasmania to pass on to their Family Law contacts.

### 3. Taking part in government inquiries and consultations

#### July 2009

- Co-wrote the Australasian Men's Health Forum [submission](#) to the Department of Health and Ageing for the *National Male Health Policy*.

#### September 2009

- Attended a NSW Government [consultation](#) on minimum standards for domestic violence behaviour change programs. Argued strongly against the gendered domestic violence paradigm if for no other reason than to assist the children of male victims and female perpetrators of violence. Recommended that perpetrator programs should be judged on the following criteria (taken from [Graham-Kevan](#)):
  1. well-designed programs have a firm and explicit theoretical basis which is supported by empirical research;
  2. programs are based on accurate assessment of the 'risk', 'needs' and 'responsivity' of offenders,
  3. there is strategic targeting of such risk and need factors through program features,
  4. programs are delivered to consistently high standards, using treatment responsivity,
  5. there is inclusion of skills-oriented, cognitive-behavioural approaches in the program, and most importantly
  6. only programs which are well-matched to, or modified to meet the needs of the offender and demonstrate treatment or program efficacy have integrity.

#### June 2010

- Organised roundtable with major stakeholders representing men's interests at the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) *Family Violence: Improving Legal Frameworks* inquiry. Also met separately with the ALRC along with Michael Woods (University of Western Sydney) and presented a preliminary written [submission](#). Achieved a small success: despite the gendered nature of the terms of reference given to the ALRC, their [recommendations](#) are directed towards reforming legal frameworks with the aim of improving the safety of all victims of family violence – whether male or female.

## **December 2010**

- Co-wrote a draft submission with Micheal Woods to the Attorney General's Department regarding the proposed Family Law rollback and circulated it amongst colleagues for feedback.
- Wrote and circulated a [submission](#) by the One in Three Campaign to the *Whole of ACT Government Statement on Family Violence*.

## **January 2011**

- Lodged a [submission](#) to the Federal Government's *Family Law Amendment (Family Violence) Bill 2010 - Exposure Draft* inquiry; circulated a request for individuals and organisations to lodge their own submissions; and wrote to the four independent MPs about our concerns with the proposed legislation.

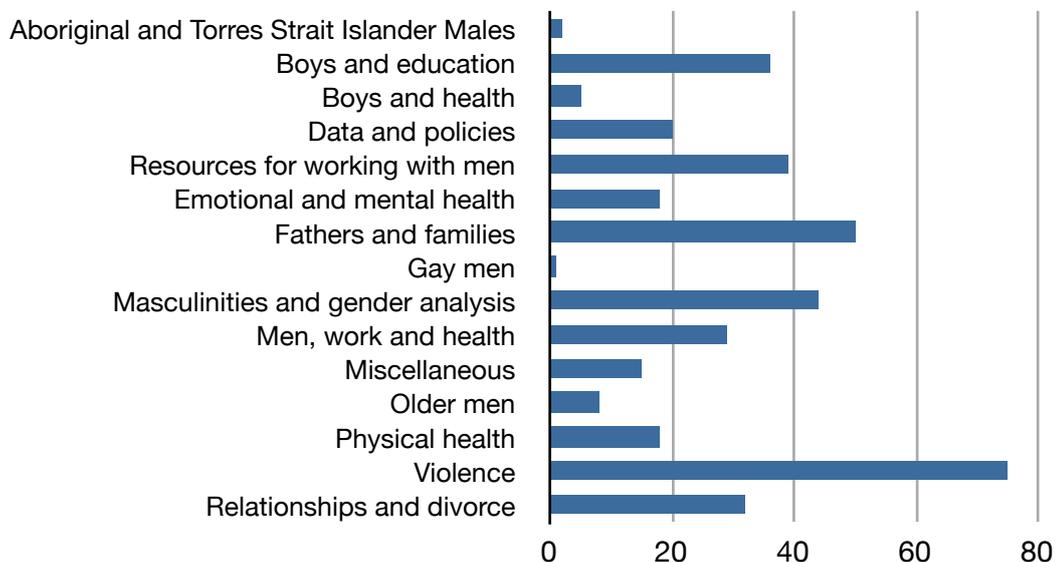
## **April 2011**

- Circulated the [details](#) of the *Federal Senate Inquiry into the Family Law Legislation Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Bill 2011 [Provisions]* and lodged a [submission](#) in response.

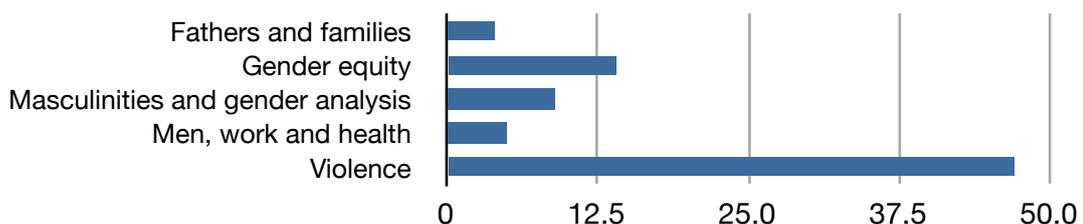
## 4. Circulating men's health information of interest

### Every month

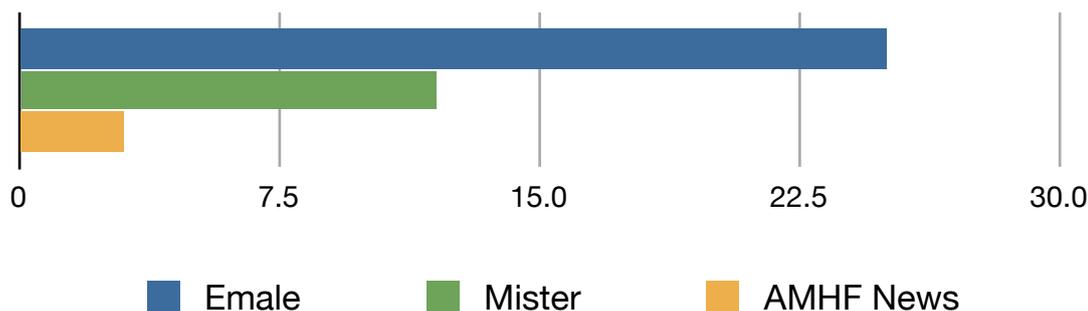
- Circulated numerous media articles of relevance to men and boys via email lists and the Men's Health Australia website ([menshealthaustralia.net](http://menshealthaustralia.net)). The graphs below illustrate the wide variety of issues that were covered. 159 articles were also posted in the *Media and News* section of the website.
- Violence was the most common issue covered in both the *Issues* and *Mythbusters* sections of the website, not because it is the most important issue, but because it is the men's health issue that receives by far the most media attention; is the most frequently misrepresented; and has the most far-ranging impacts on other areas of men's health and wellbeing. For example, the current violence paradigm leads to family law bias, false allegations against men, increased male suicide rates, increased rates of fatherlessness, lack of male schoolteachers, stereotyping of Aboriginal males, lack of services for male victims, and negative media portrayals of men, as just a few examples.
- **Number of articles posted in *Issues* sections:**



- **Number of articles posted in *Mythbusters* sections:**



- **Number of newsletters posted:**



- Occasional e-newsletters were sent out to almost 1000 subscribers in June, July, October, and November 2009, May, June and November 2010, February and June 2011. Special newsletters were sent out in Men's Health Week 2009, 2010 and 2011 to promote grassroots community events during the week.
- Since July 2010, 197 tweets have been sent out to 68 followers on Twitter.

### June 2009

- Circulated the Executive Summary and Recommendations of the [\*Senate Select Committee on Men's Health\*](#) report.
- Circulated article from the Science Daily website titled [\*Men Experience Domestic Violence, With Health Impact\*](#) which debunks five myths about abuse in men.
- Circulated article by Naomi Wolf titled [\*How the male brain can't see the laundry pile up\*](#) drawing attention to new research on biological sex differences in humans.
- Circulated news from colleagues at the US National Coalition For Men (NCFM) that a new domestic violence police training video using false and misleading information which the San Diego District Attorney funded, had been re-edited and false statistical information deleted, with copies of the new video to be sent to all organisations in receipt of the original. An exciting example of the success that can be achieved with persistence.
- Circulated information to South Australian colleagues about Adelaide University Honours student, Stephanie Kutek's research on the subjective wellbeing of rural men in SA.

- Circulated Errol Simper's opinion piece [\*Spare us from suffocating sanctimonious public outrage\*](#) about community and media comment in the wake of a May 11 *Four Corners* program about the alleged group-sex proclivities of Rugby League players.
- Circulated Daily Telegraph article [\*Women as keen as men to have group sex\*](#) detailing the findings of a survey conducted among members of the nation's second biggest online dating site, dispelling the myth that Australian men are the primary instigators and enjoyers of consensual group sex.
- Circulated Leslie Cannold's op-ed [\*Sexual freedom won't spare you regret\*](#) clarifying the difference between sexual consent and regret, a line that has been blurred by recent legal reforms in a number of states.
- Promoted the Eastern Regional Collaboration Project's [\*Men's Activity Forum\*](#) to colleagues in South Australia. The forum explored some alternative men's activities within the region as a way to connect with male consumers of the community care system.
- Circulated an article from US *Men's Health* magazine with results from a survey seeking men's responses about divorce.
- Circulated a [YouTube video](#) featuring Dr Elizabeth Celi, author of [\*Regular Joe Vs Mr Invincible\*](#) on the Ten Network's *gam with David & Kim*, about men's health, domestic abuse and social bias against men.
- Circulated unprecedented male-positive father's day [coverage](#) (10 articles) from the Washington Times newspaper.



## July 2009

- Circulated article [\*Tradies get health checks\*](#) detailing the OzHelp Foundation's pilot [\*Tradies Tune-Up\*](#) initiative which will monitor and inform tradesmen of their health.
- Circulated Campus Review article titled [\*Women outnumber and out-perform men\*](#), about a new report from the UK finding that women participate on an equal footing with men in

the UK's most elite universities and are over-represented in high-status subjects such as medicine and law.

- Circulated recent [data](#) from the Department of Child Protection in Western Australia debunking a common misconception about fathers and violence. The data showed that natural mothers are far more likely to abuse children than their natural fathers, other than in sexual abuse (the least frequent form of abuse), where mothers were responsible for only 13% of cases. The figures - obtained under Freedom of Information provisions - show that there were 1505 substantiations of child abuse in WA during 2007-8. Natural parents were responsible for 37% of total cases. Of these, mothers are identified as the perpetrator of neglect or abuse in 73% of cases, including over 50% of cases of physical abuse.
- Circulated material promoting the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia's [National Men's Health Ambassador Speaker Program](#).
- Circulated Washington Times op-ed [A domestic violence victim](#), about former NFL star Steve McNair (pictured), who was fatally shot in his sleep by girlfriend Sahel Kazemi in a murder-suicide.
- Circulated Carey Roberts op-ed [Something Amiss in the United Nations' Gender Health Agenda](#), detailing widespread health disparities affecting men, but revealing that the World Health Organization has established a wide range of sex-specific programs for women only such as a WHO Department of Women's Health and a Global Commission on Women's Health. Similar WHO programs do not exist for men.
- Circulated Sydney Morning Herald article [Romance blooms in the office but recession love can be risky](#), demonstrating that if a man makes a move at the office and it is "unwanted" by the woman it is "sexual harrassment", but if it is "wanted", it's the start of a romance or relationship.
- Circulated [RADAR](#) (Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting) special report [Fifty Domestic Violence Myths](#).
- Promoted [Out of the Shed: Overcoming the Barriers to Men's Health](#): a live simultaneous webcast and satellite broadcast looking at preventative approaches in improving men's health and the need to make health services more attractive to men. It considered the



barriers to engaging men in their own health care and the need for health professionals to develop more appropriate communication processes and interventions.

- Promoted a parliamentary breakfast in the NSW parliament titled [\*Fathers and Families: Why they both need each other\*](#), by one of Australia's premier Fatherhood Researchers, Professor Bruce Robinson from Western Australia.
- Circulated Christina Hoff Sommers' article [\*No Country for Burly Men\*](#), about the US "man-cession": nearly 80 percent of the jobs lost since December 2007 in fields like construction and manufacturing, were held by men. However, feminist advocacy groups in Washington hijacked the Obama stimulus plan, lobbying the administration to add funding to boost employment in (still-growing) fields dominated by women like health care, education and social services.

### **August 2009**

- Circulated Roy Baumeister's superb article [\*Is There Anything Good About Men?\*](#) detailing biological, cultural, psychological and anthropological reasons for sex differences.
- Circulated Sydney Morning Herald article [\*Violence by our girls increases\*](#), showing that violence by females is on the rise, prompting one school to introduce a program to teach teenage girls about the consequences of bullying.
- Circulated Daily Mail (UK) article [\*Women's refuge closed by 'politically correct' council as it does not cater for abused men\*](#). In Weymouth, Dorset, council officials have ruled that, because a women's refuge does not serve both sexes equally, the money used to run the home would be better spent on an 'outreach service' to help battered husbands as well as wives in their own homes.
- Promoted SBS *Insight* TV program on [\*Sexual Consent\*](#).
- Circulated Daily Mail (UK) article [\*Lessons about wife-beating at five: In the week Harriet Harman takes charge, yet another feminist initiative\*](#). Pupils as young as five will be taught about the evils of 'wife beating' and the need to form healthy relationships, however the new classes will not cover violence against men, who are far more likely to be the victims of violent crime.
- Promoted a male [\*Elders Sitting\*](#) at Budanoon, NSW, put on by Paddy Murray.

- Circulated Daily Mail (UK) article [\*The REAL gender gap scandal: Why boys are now the true victims of discrimination\*](#), about the crisis in boys' education.
- Promoted the launch of the new Men's Health SA [website](#).
- Circulated Andrew Bolt op-ed titled [\*Judge David Smith in hot water over "technical rape" ruling\*](#), exploring the difficulties faced by the law in adjudicating upon real-life sexual encounters, especially when alcohol is involved.
- Circulated Kisa Davis op-ed [\*When an AVO is just a tactic in a lovers' quarrel\*](#), about the use of AVOs as weapons during arguments between couples, rather than genuine protection measures for victims of violence.
- Circulated ACTU media release titled [\*Australian women are underemployed and underpaid, warns major new report\*](#), with my commentary that although the impact of the recession has hit male employment harder (and the impact of unemployment on men's mental health and sense of identity is greater), the ACTU has found a way to turn black into white.
- Circulated Laurie Nowell article [\*Family Court 'flawed' says Michael Lermontov-Midgley\*](#), about the way secrecy surrounding Family Court cases protects people who make false accusations and hides incompetence by legal and associated practitioners.
- Promoted SBS TV series [\*About Men\*](#) that examined what it means to be an Australian man in contemporary society.
- Circulated the call for submissions to the [review](#) by Professor Richard Chisholm of federal family law court practice and procedure in the context of family violence.
- Circulated information about a research project by Dale Bagshaw and Thea Brown, [\*Family Violence and Family Law\*](#), using online and telephone surveys to explore the experiences of parents and children during and after parental separation that has occurred since 1995.



## September 2009

- Circulated information about the House Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth's [\*Inquiry into the impact of violence on young Australians\*](#).
- Circulated information about an online survey, *Client Satisfaction with Family Relationship (Dispute Resolution) Centres in Australia*, being run by the Men's Rights Agency.
- Circulated information about a new printed and online parenting resource for fathers titled [\*Fathers matter\*](#) – a Victorian Government publication ensuring fathers' role is given the prominence it deserves.
- Circulated information about the [\*Federal Senate Inquiry into Suicides\*](#).
- Circulated information about an online research project, [\*Intimate Partner Abuse of Men\*](#), being conducted at Edith Cowan University in collaboration with the Men's Advisory Network (MAN).
- Circulated an article by Mike Adams titled [\*Intellectual Rapists\*](#) about a tenure-track professor in the Psychology Department of Humboldt State University (USA) being bullied by Women's Studies staff and students for teaching factual material about gender issues, and finally being forced to leave.
- Circulated Chicago Tribune article titled [\*Education gap is leading to a 'Great Depression'\*](#), about the crisis in boys' education in the USA.

## October 2009

- Engaged a web development company to transfer the Men's Health Australia [website](#) to a new hosting service. Unfortunately the work was never started and legal proceedings have since commenced against the company.
- Circulated the call for abstracts for the [\*6th Working With Boys, Building Fine Men Conference\*](#) at the University of Newcastle.
- Circulated Barbara Kay op-ed titled [\*Liberal Pink Book ignores 2009 to wallow in old battles\*](#), about the Canadian Liberal Women's Caucus' sexist demands for discriminatory treatment for men and women.

- Circulated information about a Scholarship Initiative for Wes Carter's 2010 [Men In Bali](#) self-development program.
- Circulated a call for new dads or dads-to-be to get involved in a [nationwide study](#) by the ABC TV *Catalyst* team along with UK expert Dr Arthur Brennan into the impact of pregnancy on men's health.

## November 2009

- Circulated Adelaide Advertiser article [Where have South Australia's male teachers gone?](#)
- Circulated Drew Zahn article [If they feel 'offended,' you're fired](#), about a US Professor who claims he was fired for asking what provision was in the school's sexual harassment policy to protect the accused against complaints which were malicious or ridiculous.
- Circulated Herald Sun article, [Boys face compulsory feminism programs in state schools across Victoria](#), about the introduction of feminist ideology into Victorian primary schools.



## December 2009

- Circulated information about the January 2010 [Sydney Men's Festival](#).
- Circulated a request for old neck ties by the Bathurst Prostate Cancer Support Group who were attempting to achieve a place in the Guinness Book of Records by tying men's neck ties together and placing them around the circuit of the Mt Panorama racetrack.
- Circulated Guardian UK article, [Inquiry fails to find single trafficker who forced anybody into prostitution](#), reporting that the UK's biggest ever investigation of sex trafficking failed to find a single person who had forced anybody into prostitution in spite of hundreds of raids on sex workers in a six-month campaign by government departments, specialist agencies and every police force in the country.

- Circulated information about the [Good Men Project](#) - a US organisation taking on what appears to be *the* question for the times, what does it mean to be a good man in today's world?
- Circulated information about a new e-book [The perfect gift for a man – 30 stories about reinventing manhood](#), by Gavin Heaton and Mark Pollard.

## January 2010

- Circulated information about a Men's Rights Agency [postcard protest](#) in defence of shared parenting.
- Circulated 2 papers ([here](#) and [here](#)) by the Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention (Griffith University) finding that separated males were at an increased risk of developing suicidality during the separation process compared to separated females, even after adjusting for age, education, employment and children with the separated partner.
- Circulated news article, [Man sues over seating policy](#), about a businessman who sued British Airways over their policy that bans male passengers from sitting next to children they don't know.
- Circulated Guardian UK article, [Nervous new father? Here comes the official instruction manual](#), about a government green paper which will argue that involving fathers more in their offspring's early years is not only good for the child, but can also help the couple's relationship. Every new father in Britain is to be given a "dads' guide" that will include an explanation of breast feeding and tips on how to support their partner.
- Circulated [information](#) about Mike Lew's upcoming workshops in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Darwin. Lew is a leading world expert in the field of adult male recovery from childhood abuse.
- Promoted an upcoming [Symposium on Male Studies](#) at Wagner College, NY (USA), to examine the declining state of the male stemming from cataclysmic changes in today's culture, environment and global economy.



- Circulated Online Opinion op-ed by Warwick Marsh titled [\*The vilification of fatherhood\*](#).
- Circulated details of research being conducted by the [\*Fathers and Families Research Program\*](#), a division of the Family Action Centre at The University of Newcastle, with the aim of gaining an understanding of practitioners' knowledge about fatherhood.
- Circulated details of a [research project](#) by a PhD student at the School of Psychology and Counselling at the Queensland University of Technology into understanding the factors that influence physical activity in parents of young children.

## February 2010

- Circulated details of the Tropfest short film entry titled [\*Every Second Weekend\*](#), filmed at the Bankstown meetings of [\*Dads in Distress\*](#).

## March 2010

- Circulated Sky News UK article, [\*Spotlight on Male Victims of Domestic Abuse\*](#), promoting the [National Centre for Domestic Violence's Male Domestic Violence Awareness Week](#).
- Circulated example of United Nations anti-male [hate-speech](#), claiming that "up to 70% of women worldwide have been forced to have unprotected sex."
- Circulated [information](#) about the Federal Government's "Respectful Relationships" programs funding allocation, with my commentary that the programs will most likely tell young boys that because they are male they are potentially violent proto-abusers of women and girls, with no mention of the fact that far more boys are victims of violence overall than girls, or that young boys and girls are equally likely to experience relationship violence.
- Circulated information about the Federal Government's announcement of funding for the [\*National Rural Women's Coalition\*](#) with my commentary that perhaps rural men are expected to ask their wives to pass their concerns on to Canberra on their behalf?
- Circulated new Family Action Centre report titled [\*Dads and Post Natal Depression: How Do Websites Score?\*](#) – guidelines for assessing the father-inclusive level of web-based information and support for fathers in families with Postnatal Depression (PND).
- Circulated Sunday Tasmanian article titled [\*Violence law faces challenge\*](#) about a class action lawsuit against the Tasmanian Government's Family Violence Act for arresting people without proper evidence or procedures, giving police judicial powers, denying people the right to a fair and proper hearing and usurping the proper role of the courts.

- Circulated Herald Sun article titled [\*The Men's Shed getting hammered\*](#) about the the [Australian Men's Shed Association's](#) dire financial situation and meagre \$50,000 in federal funding.

#### April 2010

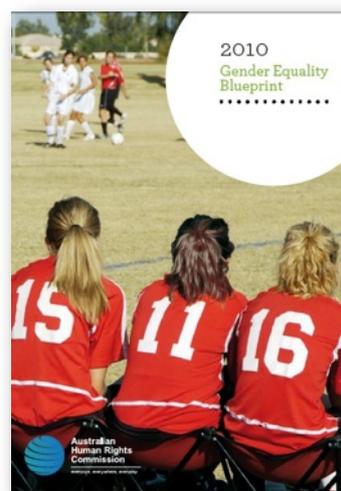
- Gave approval for the National Library of Australia to archive the [menshealthaustralia.net](#) website in its [PANDORA Web Archive](#) as “a publication of national significance and lasting research and cultural value.”
- Promoted UK BBC TV's [Who Needs Fathers? - For the Sake Of The Kids](#), a major series to mark 20 years since the passing of the *Children Act*, investigating whether its key principle is being adhered to – that in family breakdown and divorce, the welfare of the child is paramount.

#### May 2010

- Promoted the release of the [Victorian Men's health and wellbeing strategy background paper](#).

#### June 2010

- Circulated information about a debate in the Scottish Parliament specifically on male victims of domestic violence – the first such debate in the 11 years of Holyrood. A video of the debate can be watched [here](#), while a transcript is available [here](#).
- Circulated the Sex Discrimination Commissioner Elizabeth Broderick's [Gender Equality Blueprint 2010](#) document, with my commentary that it might as well have been titled the “Women's Equality Blueprint 2010” as it completely ignores inequalities that favour females over males (suicide rates, mortality rates across the top ten causes of death, life expectancy, bias in family law, crisis in boys education, higher rates of violence, work-related injury/illness/death, lack of support for fathers, lack of male teachers, etc). If we as a nation are to uphold the principles of human rights and equal opportunity, they must apply to all citizens, not just those who happen to have been born female.



- Circulated US President Barack Obama's 2010 Father's Day speech announcing the launch of the President's [\*Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative\*](#).
- Promoted [\*Healthy Men - Healthy Profits\*](#) – the Men's Advisory Network (WA) 2010 Business Seminar.
- Circulated the Call for Papers for the [\*First Annual Conference on Male Studies\*](#) to be held in October, 2010 at Wagner College on Staten Island, New York. Also circulated an [online survey](#) on the need for Male Studies to assist the Foundation for Male Studies with its grant requests and fund raising efforts, and to increase its support channels.
- Promoted the ABC TV Catalyst program [\*Fatherhood and the Male Pregnancy!\*](#) in which Dr Jonica Newby asks “is there such a thing as the male pregnancy?”, following 3 dads-to-be, testing their hormones and their humour – as they make the transition to fatherhood.

## July 2010

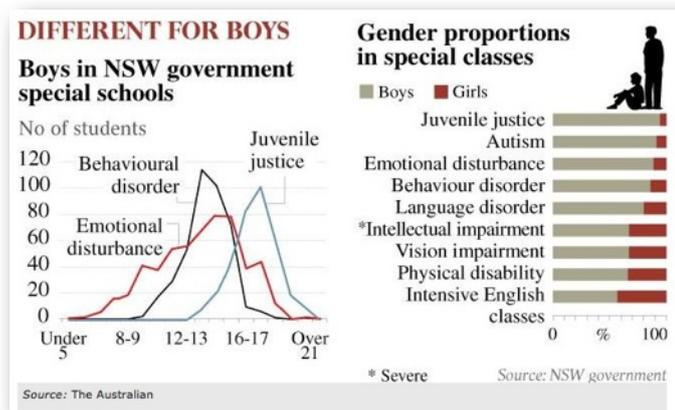
- Circulated a transcript and audio recording of Tony Delroy's ABC Radio [\*Nightlife\*](#) program on domestic abuse of men.
- Circulated a transcript and audio recording of Gillian Oshaughnessy's 720 ABC Radio Perth's program [\*When women hurt men\*](#).
- Promoted a large online international study investigating peoples' wellbeing called [\*The International Wellbeing Study\*](#) via the Men's Health Australia website.
- Circulated an editorial by Peter Bolt from the *Australian Church Record* titled [\*Will Our Churches Speak for Men?\*](#) as well as a feature article titled [\*One in Three Campaign Launched: Will Support Come from the Churches?\*](#)
- Promoted Men's Health Services [\*Effective ways of engaging men\*](#) training program to be held at Southern Cross University, Lismore.
- Circulated an online [survey](#) by NSW Cancer Council, Relationships Australia (NSW), HOME Hospice, and the University of Western Sydney's MHIRC to develop a best practice service model that can be used throughout Australia to support men (and their families) whose wife/partner is facing end of life.
- Circulated a Canberra Times article about male victims of domestic violence titled [\*Forgotten victims of home abuse\*](#).

- Circulated commentary about the widespread [media and community outrage](#) about plans for a woman to be stoned-to-death for adultery in Iran, and the deafening silence about the fact that *five men* and *one woman* have been stoned-to-death for adultery in Iraq since 2002.
- Circulated an ABC News article titled [Male abuse victims with nowhere to go](#) about the recent MAN/EUC [Intimate Partner Abuse of Men](#) study. Also circulated an article by Graham Mabury, from 882 6PR's Nightline radio program titled [Domestic violence strikes men hard](#), along with a transcript and audio recording of his radio program titled [Male victims of domestic abuse](#).
- Circulated a request by the ABC TV Catalyst program for a non-residential dad to interview for part two of their [Fatherhood Special](#).

### August 2010

- Promoted a workshop for service providers by Men's Health Services to be held in Perth called [Working with men affected by Intimate Partner Violence](#).
- Circulated information about the annual [Check It](#) men's health event to be held at WIN Entertainment Centre in Wollongong.
- Promoted a new website called [The Other Glass Ceiling: The male side of the gender divide](#): while the push for equality of the sexes in the public sphere and the operation of the 'glass ceiling' is well-known, the inequalities facing men in the private sphere are less known: perhaps even denied or ignored.
- Circulated an extract from the Greens political party's Women's Policy highlighting their bizarre goal of recognising "the specific barriers women face in accessing education" while ignoring the entire [crisis in boys' education](#).
- Promoted Men's Health Services two health promotion training programs titled [Effective ways of engaging men](#), to be held in Newcastle and Sydney.
- Circulated information about an online PhD study called [Self and Health Behaviours](#) about how people understand themselves, and how this relates to their health attitudes and the things they do. The researcher was seeking more men to participate.

- Circulated an Australian newspaper article titled [\*Special schools a fast track to prison\*](#), highlighting the fact that boys are being segregated from the mainstream school system for behavioural and emotional disorders at about six times the rate of girls.



- Circulated a Labor Party election promise of [\*two weeks paternity leave for fathers\*](#), noting that the Productivity Commission recommended two weeks paternity leave be included in the Federal Government's Paid Parental Leave Scheme from the outset, something that the Labor Government had previously refused to do "as a cost-saving measure." Also circulated details of the Liberal/National Opposition's much more generous [\*paternity leave scheme\*](#).
- Circulated a Sydney Morning Herald article titled [\*The men from Uncle making a difference in boys' lives\*](#), about the dire financial situation of the [\*Uncle\*](#) male mentoring program in Byron Bay, NSW.
- Promoted a series of talks for men by author Steve Biddulph in Parramatta and Sydney titled [\*The Masculine Road\*](#).
- Circulated a [\*request\*](#) by the SBS TV network for men to talk about their experiences of sexual harassment on an upcoming episode of their *Insight* program.
- Circulated a [\*media release\*](#) promoting the new book by Bettina Arndt titled *What Men Want – In Bed*.

## September 2010

- Circulated a Guardian (UK) article titled [\*Girls think they are cleverer than boys from age four, study finds\*](#), reporting on a paper arguing that teachers have lower expectations of boys than of girls and this belief fulfils itself throughout primary and secondary school.
- Circulated a Men's News Daily (USA) Father's Day op-ed by Dr Gordon Finley titled [\*On Fatherhood\*](#), highlighting the deleterious effects of fatherlessness on children.

- Circulated an article by Don Dymond of FathersCan Canada titled [\*A View From The Inside\*](#) detailing his personal experience as a male victim of domestic violence navigating the family court system in Canada.
- Circulated an Online Opinion piece by Elizabeth Willmott Harrop titled [\*She-wolves in sheeps' clothing\*](#) about the culture of silence surrounding the issue of female child abusers.
- Circulated a Daily Telegraph article titled [\*Dads fear their boss\*](#), reporting that dads are fighting a daily battle to balance work and fatherhood, but admit they are scared to ask bosses to reduce their hours for fear it may harm their careers (and therefore their partners and children).
- Circulated a Daily Mail (UK) article titled [\*Four in ten domestic violence victims are men\*](#) reporting on a study by the Parity campaign group, based on Home Office statistics and the British Crime Survey, finding that the average proportion of male domestic violence victims was 40 per cent, and that more than 41,000 men were prosecuted for domestic violence in 2008/09 but only 2,700 women.
- Circulated a Sydney Morning Herald news [\*report\*](#) that, almost three years after his son was abducted by his mother Melinda Stratton, former NSW deputy fire chief Ken Thompson had learned the six-year-old boy was in Amsterdam. Also circulated a related Online Opinion piece titled [\*Nation moved - father and son reunited\*](#).
- Promoted the superb BBC TV program [\*Gareth Malone's Extraordinary School For Boys\*](#) in which the famous choirmaster took over the reins of a primary school class for a term, helping to reinvigorate the educational experience for a group of 39 boys from an Essex school.
- Circulated a Deakin University media release titled [\*Poor relationships could be the cause of male sexual dysfunction\*](#), reporting on initial results from a Deakin study indicating that Australian men with sexual problems also tend to have issues in their relationships. The researchers were calling on men, whether they have sexual problems or not, to share their experiences through an anonymous online survey.



- Promoted ABC TV Catalyst program [\*Fatherhood: Secrets of the Superdads\*](#) in which Dr Jonica Newby catches up with some new dads to find out how they are coping with their first year of fatherhood, as she asks the question: can science tell us what makes a good dad?

### **October 2010**

- Circulated information about a City of Burnside free men's health information session, [\*It's never too late for a healthy lifestyle\*](#) to colleagues in South Australia.
- Promoted the new BBC One TV drama [\*Single Father\*](#), starring David Tennant, in which Dave finds himself a single father to four children after his wife dies unexpectedly.
- Promoted a new blog by Glen Poole, Chair of The Men's Network (UK) titled [\*Man Gets Equal\*](#). The purpose of the blog is to provide a voice for men and boys in the equalities debate and to highlight the great work The Men's Network is doing in Brighton & Hove to develop what they believe to be the world's first ever citywide strategy for men and boys.
- Promoted Men's Health Services' [\*Effective Ways of Engaging Men\*](#) training programs to be held in Gosford, Melton, Sydney and Brisbane.
- Circulated a media release from the new Scottish charity Abused Men in Scotland (AMIS) titled [\*Scottish police record record number of male victims of domestic abuse\*](#).
- Circulated an Online Opinion piece by Dr Peter West titled [\*Men in the age of feminism\*](#).

### **November 2010**

- Promoted the [\*Health4Men: 2010 and Beyond\*](#) event, put on by the Tasmanian Men's Health and Wellbeing Association (Tasmen) and the Men's Services Network Tasmania (MSNT), to look at Men's Health and Wellbeing in Tasmania.
- Circulated an Online Opinion piece by Roger Smith titled [\*Gender-based Approach Misses the Mark in Tackling Family Violence\*](#).

### **December 2010**

- Engaged a designer to work on the new [\*AMHF website\*](#) and the revised [\*Men's Health Australia website\*](#).
- Circulated information about Men's Health Services' [\*Effective Ways of Engaging Men\*](#) Training Program to colleagues in South Australia.

- Circulated a media release from International Men’s Day announcing the theme for 2011 of *[Giving Boys The Best Possible Start In Life](#)*.
- Promoted Men’s Health Services’ upcoming *[Working with men affected by violence](#)* training program to be held in Sydney.
- Circulated details of Groupwork Solutions *[Training opportunities](#)* for South Australia for 2011 (including such programs as *Engaging men in family based programs* and *Focus on early fatherhood*).

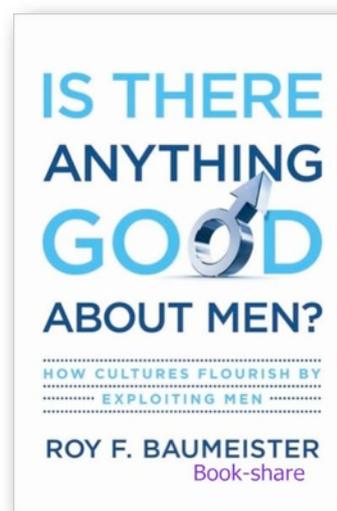
### January 2011

- Circulated a *[request for funding](#)* for the Foundation for Male Studies who are working hard to add courses of study, centres and departments to US educational institutions – to spread the understanding of all aspects of boys and men – from anthropology to education to biology to psychology. Also promoted their upcoming *[Second Annual Conference on Male Studies, Looking Forward to Solutions](#)*.
- Circulated information about an Australian Research Council project investigating the relationship between gambling and family violence in help-seeking populations to colleagues in South Australia. Communicated with researcher Aino Suomi to confirm that the research covers all family violence and not just partner violence.
- Circulated the excellent New York Times feature article *[The Study of Man \(or Males\)](#)*, reporting on the history and politics of (pro-feminist) men’s studies and the nascent (male-positive) male studies.
- Circulated a request by Murray Bacon (NZ) for input into a “Family/Fathers Film Festival,” listing films under several related issues.

### February 2011

- Promoted the Australian Institute of Male Health and Studies (AIMHS) inaugural Male Studies Symposium titled *[From Boyhood to Manhood: Difficulties and Challenges of Transition](#)*.
- Circulated Online Opinion article by Beth Lakey titled *[Women who cry wolf](#)*, arguing that it is dangerous to ignore women’s agency or to assume that women are always victims in cases of alleged sexual misconduct.

- Circulated [article](#) from The Economist about [the case of Mirko Fischer](#), the hedge fund manager from Luxembourg who sued British Airways after it forced him to change seats because of an internal policy that forbade seating adult men next to unaccompanied minors. Not only did he win his court case, but British Airways has changed its policy and will now “ensure that the seating of unaccompanied minors is managed in a safe but non discriminatory manner.”
- Circulated USA Today article by Christina Hoff Summers titled [Domestic Violence Myths Help No One](#) about widespread misinformation about violence against women.
- Promoted the new [book](#) by Roy F. Baumeister based upon his superb address to the American Psychological Association titled [Is There Anything Good About Men?](#)
- Circulated CNN News [piece](#) by Nancy Grace showing an important shift in attitudes in at least one segment of the media that is explicitly pointing out the double standard of America’s legal system and media regarding older females having sex with underage males v. older males having sex with underage females.
- Circulated a [media release](#) announcing the launch of [The Boys Initiative](#) – a groundbreaking national US campaign to address boys’ slide in educational achievement and social adjustment.
- Circulated a January 2010 report from the US Bureau of Justice Statistics titled [Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth](#), finding that 95% of children reporting sexual misconduct by juvenile corrections staff reported it was perpetrated by a female correctional officer, even though there are more male correctional officers than female correctional officers in juvenile correctional facilities. 10.8% of male juvenile inmates in the U.S. reported sexual misconduct on the part of facility staff, as compared to only 4.7% of the female juvenile inmate population.
- Circulated article from The Times (UK) via The Australian by Kate Spicer titled [What women really want](#), about responses to a new paper by Catherine Hakim called [Feminist Myths and Magic Medicine](#). Also circulated the source Hakim article.
- Circulated [Reason.com](#) article by Cathy Young titled [Julian Assange, Feminism, and Rape – How the WikiLeaks founder shined the spotlight on the debate over sex, rape, and](#)



consent, exploring questions about where the law should draw the line between bad behaviour and criminal acts, and whether the feminist rethinking of rape has made it easy for any man to be targeted.

- Circulated Wall Street Journal article by Paula Szuchman titled [Key to Happy Marriage: Mom Cooks, Dad Plays?](#) reporting on a recent study on shared parenting which found that couples where the father participates equally in traditional caregiving tasks, like preparing meals or giving baths, tend to clash more than couples where the mother does a bigger share. Specifically, couples that strive for more equal co-parenting end up displaying “less supportive and more undermining co-parenting behaviour toward each other,” the researchers found. But when the father spent more time playing with the child, while the mom did more of the nuts-and-bolts caregiving, the couples had a “stronger, more supportive co-parenting relationship.”
- Circulated Sydney Morning Herald article [Fathers 'stereotyped' by Child Support Agency](#) reporting on the Commonwealth Ombudsman’s finding that the Child Support Agency has been unfairly focusing on parents who do not pay enough while ignoring those who are getting too much.
- Circulated editorial from The Australian titled [The government needs to be cautious on Family Law](#), arguing that in any changes to the Family Law Act the focus must be on the children, but the opportunity for both men and women to develop loving relationships with their offspring must not be ignored.
- Circulated Sydney Morning Herald article titled [Sedation nation the cost of taking boisterous out of boys](#) examining the (over)use of ADHD in boys and asking “are we in danger of seeing boyhood itself as a disorder?”

## March 2011

- Circulated information about the announcement of the [Proposal for a White House Council on Boys to Men](#), the result of investigation by Dr. Warren Farrell’s multi-partisan Commission of thirty-four prominent authors, educators, researchers and practitioners
- Circulated the call for abstracts for the [National Men’s Health Gathering 2011](#), to be held in Perth.



- Circulated a [YouTube excerpt](#) from ABC TV's Q & A program where Mark Pannowitz, a Westpac employee, asked the following question of his CEO Gail Kelly: "Currently there is a 27 per cent pay difference between males and females in the finance sector. How is Westpac, planning to address this issue?" Gail's response – that despite equal pay for equal work being completely entrenched at Westpac, there is still a gender pay gap – suggests that the pay gap is caused by the work/life choices of male and female employees, not any mythical male conspiracy to pay women less for the same work.
- Circulated a [YouTube excerpt](#) from The 7pm Project's story about the bias against men in family law.
- Circulated new AIFS study titled [Fathering in Australia among couple families with young children](#), which aims to increase understanding of the many ways in which fathers in couple families with young children contribute to family life, through the study of their time investment with children, their supportiveness as partners, their financial contribution, their parenting behaviours and styles, and their perceptions of their own adequacy as fathers. The impact of fathers on children's wellbeing is also examined.
- Circulated EU Observer article [Women quotas are 'demeaning', says Latvian ex-president](#), reporting on former Latvian president Vaira Vike-Freiberga's claim that the EU commission's idea of imposing quotas on women in businesses is based on the "demeaning" principle that no woman can make it on her own merits.
- Circulated information about Tasmen's [Community Rites of Passage – Becoming Men](#) Program.
- Circulated information about a Men's Health PHD Scholarship available in Adelaide to colleagues in South Australia.
- Circulated a Sun (UK) newspaper article titled [Dads in Despair](#), telling the horror stories of three fathers who have been through the UK's secretive family court system.



- Circulated details of *The Baby Shed*: a hands on workshop for new dads and the *Baby Workshop For Dads*, both to be held in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney.
- Promoted Men's Health Services' new *Healthy Men at Work* program.
- Circulated a journal article from Security Dialogue titled *Recognizing Gender-Based Violence Against Civilian Men and Boys in Conflict Situations*, arguing that gender-based violence against men (including sexual violence, forced conscription, and sex-selective massacre) must be recognised as such, condemned, and addressed by civilian protection agencies and proponents of a 'human security' agenda in international relations.
- Promoted the Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA) 4th Men's Shed National Conference *Men in Sheds: Building Communities* to be held in Brisbane.
- Circulated Science Daily (USA) article titled *Women's Choices, Not Abilities, Keep Them out of Math-Intensive Fields*. The study reviewed research on sex discrimination and decided that it is no longer a major factor. In fact, one large-scale national study found that women are actually slightly more likely than men to be invited to interview for and to be offered tenure-track jobs in math-intensive STEM fields.
- Circulated Daily Telegraph article titled *Out of touch school pushes PC line*, about the damaged caused to two 13-year old and one 14-year-old boys who were expelled from a Sydney Catholic school after a female classmate complained they had touched her fully clothed breast three months earlier in the presence of a teacher.
- Circulated article from American Thinker titled *It's Okay on Nickelodeon for Girls to Beat Up Boys* about the prevalence of female to male violence in children's TV programming in the US.
- Circulated London School of Economics media release titled *Women's 'double shift' of work and domestic duties a myth finds new research*, detailing new research by Catherine Hakim showing that if we consider the hours spent doing both paid work and unpaid household, care and voluntary work together, men do more than their fair share.
- Circulated a page from the National Fatherhood Initiative (US) website titled *The Father Factor: Data on the Consequences of Father Absence*, detailing the myriad data on the effects of father absence on poverty, maternal and child health, incarceration, crime, teen pregnancy, child abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, education, and childhood obesity.

- Promoted BBC Four's (UK) [\*Fatherhood Season\*](#) where Fatherhood in an historical and contemporary context was celebrated in a season of TV programmes encompassing documentary, science, drama, and entertainment.

- Circulated Daily Mirror (UK) article titled [\*Saving the men who live in fear of domestic violence\*](#), reporting on the 40% of domestic violence victims who are male, yet who often struggle to find support and feel ashamed to look for help, along with hopeful signs thanks to the UK's growing number of refuges exclusive to men.



- Circulated [story](#) and YouTube [link](#) about a rare TV movie featuring husband abuse, *Men Don't Tell*, starring Peter Strauss and Judith Light.
- Circulated a [combined media statement](#) from the Family Law Reform Association (NSW), Lone Fathers Association Australia Inc., Parents without Partners Australia Inc., Non-Custodial Parents Party (Equal Parenting), Fairness in Child Support and the Shared Parenting Council of Australia, voicing their deep concern and dismay about the proposed Family Law Amendment (Family Violence) Bill 2010. Also circulated a number of news articles from [The Age](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [the Australian](#) and [the West Australian](#) newspapers, reporting the story.
- Circulated recent media coverage of [\*The Rite Journey\*](#) (adolescent rites of passage) program, along with some of their new initiatives.
- Circulated a [Statement of Claim](#) from the Men's Rights Agency, boycotting the Federal Government's Family Law agenda and making their own statement about the changes they believe need to be made to improve the system.
- Circulated [article](#) from The Australian newspaper reporting that the Federal Liberal Opposition were planning to support the Government's backdown on the family law reforms that had helped many children to continue a relationship with their fathers after divorce and separation.
- Circulated important [analysis](#) by the Secretary of the *Shared Parenting Council of Australia* of the proposed Family Law Legislation Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Bill 2011.

- Circulated a YouTube clip from the 7pm Project TV program titled [\*Elizabeth Broderick misleads the public about domestic violence\*](#), where Australia’s Sex Discrimination Commissioner incorrectly claims that “one in three women will live in an intimate relationship characterised by violence over her lifetime.”

## April 2011

- Completed the new Australasian Men’s Health Forum website at [amhf.org.au](http://amhf.org.au).
- Circulated the groundbreaking article from Dolly Magazine titled [\*Girls Who Beat Boys\*](#), “uncovering the scary reality of girls who beat their boyfriends.”
- Circulated an Online Opinion article by Yuri Joakimidis titled [\*Mean spirited ideology or a presumption that every child wants the love of both parents in equal measure\*](#) arguing that gender stereotypes are dangerous, and leave groups of people suffering and vulnerable because they do not fit the pigeonhole prescriptions that dominate family violence discourse and support organisations in our country.
- Circulated NT News article titled [\*Graphic ads portray domestic violence\*](#), about a series of new graphic domestic violence TV advertisements showing, as usual, a man abusing women and children. I provided accurate data from the Young People and Domestic Violence Survey, along with suggestions to lodge complaints with the Advertising Standards Bureau, write letters to the editor or contact Kon Vatskalis, NT Minister for Health and Child Protection.
- Circulated data showing that the belief that increased shared parenting has led to increased lethal danger to children from their fathers has no statistical basis. In fact, there is strong statistical evidence that the opposite is the case, and that the 2006 amendments to the Family Law Act have reduced the lethal danger to children. NSW Child Death Review Team Annual Reports indicate that there has been a sharp fall in the number of fatal assaults on children since 2005. This marked downwards trend followed a lengthy period prior to 2006 in which there was no trend movement.



- Circulated Wall Street Journal article [\*There Is No Male-Female Wage Gap\*](#), reviewing evidence that the “wage gap” is either non-existent (or favours women) or is due to other factors besides discrimination.
- Promoted a new interactive segment on the [\*Dads on the Air\*](#) radio program called *Live and Listening*.
- Circulated article from The Australian newspaper titled [\*Family law change ‘puts kids at extra risk’\*](#), quoting the Chief Justice of the Family Court, Diana Bryant, warning the Gillard government that the changes to family law before parliament would reopen many cases and put children at extra risk by log-jamming the courts and adding stress to families.

## May 2011

- Circulated Sydney Morning Herald article Abuse claims ‘[\*rarely used as court weapon\*](#)’, reporting on Federal Minister for the Status of Women, Kate Ellis’ false and misleading statement in Federal Parliament that “claims that abuse allegations are manufactured are bogus.”
- Promoted a free parenting seminar in Adelaide by Dr Richard Fletcher titled [\*Fatherhood is a contact sport\*](#).
- Promoted a free Public Lecture and Discussion in Canberra by Dr John Rosenberg as part of National Palliative Care Week titled [\*Navigating Men’s Grief\*](#), to be followed by some discussions about the work of Men’s Sheds in the region with representatives from two Sheds.
- Promoted a forum titled [\*What do you think about men’s health and wellbeing?\*](#) to be held in Adelaide by the University of South Australia, SA Health and Health Consumers Alliance of SA Inc.
- Circulated Herald Sun article [\*Budget 2011: Paternity leave rollout to be delayed until 2013\*](#), reporting on the unsurprising news that the introduction of paid paternity leave has once again been delayed by the Federal Government.

- Circulated Sydney Morning Herald article [\*Traffic chaos as Sydney Harbour Bridge reopens after protest\*](#) about Michael Fox's daring protest which closed the bridge in both directions. Mr Fox unveiled two banners "Kids Only" and "Plz Help My Kids" at the top of the bridge, then abseiled down to the road below where he was met by police officers. Also circulated follow-up article [\*Sydney Harbour Bridge protester keeping up his fight.\*](#)
- 
- Circulated a superb male-positive article from North & South Magazine (NZ) titled [\*In Praise of Men. Forgotten male virtues: a woman's view.\*](#)
  - Promoted a [\*talkback call-in\*](#) about the proposed changes to Family Law being held on ABC Radio National's [\*Australia Talks\*](#) program.
  - Circulated [\*news\*](#) of the Australian Government providing an additional \$485,000 to support the six national Women's Alliances in their work to advance gender equality in Australia (perhaps needed - but nothing for men's organisations).
  - Circulated AAP News article [\*Coalition push for family law changes\*](#), reporting on the Federal Coalition's plans to push for changes to draft legislation allegedly providing protection for children within the family law system and tackling family violence.
  - Circulated story from The Australian newspaper titled [\*Fears persist after separation\*](#), reporting new research from the Australian Institute of Family Studies, which found parental conflict, fear, abuse, or safety concerns remain strong for a significant number of parents following separation.
  - Circulated Canberra Times article [\*Protesters demand divorce law changes\*](#), reporting that hundreds of protesters rallied on the lawns of Parliament House calling for changes to divorce laws. The protesters travelled from across NSW and represented women's refuges, children's organisations and charities who deal with victims of domestic violence.
  - Circulated [\*video footage\*](#) of the vote in the House of Representatives in which the Federal Government rejected the Opposition's sensible amendments of its Family Law bill.

- Circulated a [transcript](#) and [YouTube video](#) of the speech by George Christensen( MP for Dawson - Mackay area, Queensland) during debate of the Family Law amendments, in which he bravely claimed amongst other things that,

I suspect that there is a strong feminist ideology driving these amendments. It is feminist ideology that has created this malicious code to rob men of their rights to be fathers. It is feminist ideology that has dressed up this malicious code to rob children of their right to have a father in their lives. It is feminist ideology that has dressed up this malicious code to create the illusion of acting to stop family violence.

- Circulated a [YouTube trailer](#) for a new documentary titled *MALE 2010*, by US filmmaker David Dufour, containing interviews with US and Australian activists in the field of men's health and wellbeing.

- Circulated article from The Australian titled [Breaking up: it's not me, it is you](#), featuring the following quote from the Men's Health Australia submission to the *Family Law Legislation Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Bill 2011 [Provisions]* Senate Inquiry:

Men's Health Australia says the proposed changes will give an open licence to parents -- mostly mothers -- who wish to fabricate allegations of violence and abuse as a strategy in family law proceedings.

Controversially, it says the proposed expanded definition of family violence incorporates much of what is considered normal conflict in separating families as well as the abusive behaviour of ongoing dominance or violence that must be addressed. "It is unrealistic not to expect heightened emotions, and even raised voices and put-downs, in most relationship breakdowns. There needs to be a distinction between this normal behaviour and the abuse of physical assault and emotional terrorism," it says.

"An AVO [apprehended violence order] is not subject to the test of evidence and should not be accorded weight without investigation by the Family Court into its nature and circumstances."



## June 2011

- Worked on the transfer of the Men's Health Australia [website](#) to a new hosting platform. It is anticipated that the new website will launch by the end of 2011.
- Circulated information about the Senate's [Inquiry into international child abduction to and from Australia](#).

- Circulated BBC News article [\*Women's convictions for domestic violence 'double.'\*](#) reporting that the number of women convicted of domestic violence in England and Wales has more than doubled in the last five years.
- Circulated an excerpt from Professor Patrick Parkinson's [\*submission\*](#) to the Senate Inquiry into the Family Violence Bill, providing much interesting data on the prevalence of false allegations of violence and abuse as a legal strategy in Australian Family Courts. For example, surveys of state magistrates and family lawyers found that many hold the view that some family violence order applications are unjustified and that tactical applications for AVOs occur often.
- Circulated op-ed from the Guardian newspaper (UK) by Nicola Graham-Kevan titled [\*The invisible domestic violence – against men\*](#) exploring the reasons why women's domestic violence towards men has been unreported for so long, and what has changed in the last five years to make it more visible.
- Circulated Sydney Morning Herald article titled [\*Backyard bliss: why a rumble with dad is wise.\*](#) reporting on research by Dr Richard Fletcher suggesting that intense, physical play - such as that between children and fathers - may be as central to emotional and brain development as the nurturing traditionally associated with mothers.
- Circulated [\*YouTube footage\*](#) of a Channel 10 News (Sydney) report about the lack of services for new dads.
- Circulated an extensive Sydney Morning Herald feature article titled [\*Is the health system failing men?\*](#) featuring interviews with four Australian men's health experts, including the AMHF's Professor John Macdonald.
- Circulated details of the [\*Out of the Shed\*](#) summit on Men, Boys and Mental Health, to be held on the Sunshine Coast in July.
- Circulated information about Bill Kosmopoulos' [\*plans\*](#) to run the infamous Bali International Triathlon to raise funds for Dads in Distress Support Services.
- Circulated media release from Dads on the Air titled [\*Why are cows more important than children?\*](#) that highlighted the crippling social fallout from deep-rooted Family Law policy failure, such as the 830,000 Australian children who had little or no meaningful contact with their biological non-custodial parent.

## APPENDIX A - FINANCIAL REPORT, 1ST JULY 2010 - 30TH JUNE 2011

Overall, the total expenditure was slightly less than total income, and this modest saving will roll over to be used for expenses in the next financial year. The wages paid to Greg Andresen by the collaborative partners towards his one-day-a-week position were exactly as budgeted. The costs associated with moving the Men's Health Australia website to a new web host were around \$450 less than budgeted. Because the website moved to its new host some months later than planned, there was also a saving of around \$400 in hosting costs. However these savings were almost offset by an increase in general expenses of almost \$800.

Income	Estimate	Actual
<b>Collaborative partners (MHIRC, AMHF, MHSA &amp; MAN)</b>	<b>\$12,100.00</b>	<b>\$12,100.00</b>

Expenses	Estimate	Actuals
<b>Wages</b>	<b>\$12,100.00</b>	<b>\$12,100.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Audio transcription		\$107.52
Media releases		\$847.58
Email marketing		\$398.89
Books and newspapers		\$36.78
Internet		\$547.61
FOI Requests		\$57.75
Travel		\$493.95
Stationery		\$218.87
Telephone/fax		\$255.10
Postage		\$26.50
	<b>\$2,200.00</b>	<b>\$2,990.55</b>
<b>Change of site hosting</b>	<b>\$3,300.00</b>	<b>\$2,852.73</b>
<b>Web hosting fees</b>	<b>\$520.00</b>	<b>\$116.09</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,120.00</b>	<b>\$18,059.37</b>

All figures include GST

## APPENDIX B - POINTERS FOR CONDUCTING MEDIA WATCH WORK

### Letters

- Letters to the editor can be very effective
- Keep your letters credible, polite, reasonable, on-topic and succinct
- Be constructive, keep your cool, use humour where appropriate
- Don't 'rant', don't be hostile
- Be positive and solutions-focused rather than negative and victim-focused.

### Journalists

- In the case of error or bias, contact the journalist and request that they do a follow-up story
- Feed journalists the correct information so they don't have to do the work themselves
- Don't contact journalists to 'correct them' but to 'help them see another side to the story'
- Find pro-male academics for journalists to refer to, in order to give credibility to stories
- Target media and journalists that are more receptive to male perspectives
- Lodge complaints with bodies such as the Australian Press Council, Australian Communications and Media Authority, and the ABC's Independent Complaints Review Panel if necessary.

### Media Bias

- Remember that much of the media (especially the ABC/SBS/Fairfax press) are dominated by ideologies that ignore, trivialise or demonise males and their concerns.
- If an interviewer or media host is biased against you or biased towards an anti-male position (as they most probably will be!), try to come across as balanced, reasonable, sensible, and moderate. This can make a biased moderator and any unreasonable radical guests be seen for what they really are.

- Acknowledge the ‘[lace curtain](#)’ that exists in the media by:
  - ❖ appealing to how women and girls (mothers of sons, daughters of fathers) are affected by the issue
  - ❖ using boys as an example instead of men to generate sympathy
  - ❖ using female spokespeople
  - ❖ focusing your energies on people with open minds (don’t waste your energy on changing the minds of hardened radicals)
  - ❖ raising issues that effect minority men (gay men, aboriginal men, migrant men, etc.) as this will garner more media attention than talking about “white men’s issues”
  - ❖ using a human rights rather than a men’s rights framework.

### **Timing**

- Timing is important (to fit in with the media). Send out media releases and letters to the editor to coincide with important media events (e.g. White Ribbon Day, Men’s Health Week, Father’s Day). Don’t send out press releases on big news days (e.g. the Federal Budget, the Melbourne Cup).

### **Information Technology**

- Use electronic networks to generate many letters to the editor, submissions to inquiries, etc., on any particular topic, theme or issue. Target websites and blogs to get people talking about the issues. These days the print media will often quote stories from websites and blogs.

### **Advertising**

- When offensive advertising appears, target all parts of the advertising chain: the network, the channel, the advertising agency and the sponsor themselves. Also target the Advertising Standards Council (for what it’s worth!).

### **Persistence**

- Be persistent! Don’t give up!
- Sometimes it takes months or years to get a result, so be patient
- Don’t take ‘no’ for an answer, but remember to be polite.