



# Research Priorities Grants - May 2014

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Information for applicants

## ANROWS

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL RESEARCH  
ORGANISATION FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY

*to Reduce Violence against Women & their Children*

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PO Box 6322, Alexandria NSW 2015

Phone +61 2 8374 4000 Fax +61 2 8374 5000

[anrows.org.au](http://anrows.org.au)

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# Introduction

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The *Information for Applicants* is a guide for researchers wishing to apply for funding under the Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) Research Priorities Grants. This document contains information about ANROWS and the Research Priorities Grants, including funding rules, a detailed outline of topics, selection criteria, information and guidelines to assist researcher complete the online application form, and assessment of project proposals.

ANROWS Research Priorities Grants is an open funding application scheme within the ANROWS Research Program 2014-15 (the Research Program). The Research Program includes four main types of research projects:

1. Projects funded as part of the ANROWS Research Priorities Grants.
2. A number of large-scale, multi-jurisdictional national projects, supported by advisory groups with appropriate expertise in the relevant topic.
3. Small-scale, commissioned projects that provide a conceptual or theoretical underpinning for subsequent empirical research.
4. Other research projects that ANROWS has been specifically commissioned to undertake, including a dedicated perpetrator intervention research stream funded through an additional Commonwealth Government grant.

The Research Program will produce research under the National Research Agenda to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (National Research Agenda) to support the [National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022](#).<sup>1</sup>

ANROWS invites researchers across Australia to apply for the Research Priorities Grants. Applicants are required to submit their proposals using the online application form available through our [grant portal](#).<sup>2</sup> Proposals can be submitted by researchers from academic and research institutions, non-government organisations and community organisations. Partnerships or joined up projects are strongly encouraged.

The call for applications opens **16 May 2014** and closes **11 July 2014**.

The objectives of the Research Priorities Grants are to:

1. address priorities outlined in the National Research Agenda and assist states, territories and the Commonwealth implement the National Plan's outcomes;
2. fund high quality and innovative research that builds the evidence base about violence against women and their children;
3. provide publications and other forms of knowledge transfer that will support the reduction of the incidence and impacts of violence against women and their children; and
4. build capacity in responding to violence against women across disciplines and sectors and between researchers and practitioners working in this field.

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<sup>1</sup> Further information about the ANROWS Research Program 2014-15 is available at [anrows.org.au](http://anrows.org.au)

<sup>2</sup> The grant portal can be accessed from [anrows.org.au](http://anrows.org.au)

Proposals must address selected topics from the ANROWS Research Priorities Topics, which are detailed in Section 2 of this document. Grants will be awarded to project proposals based on merit, determined by a peer-review selection process. Projects will be funded up to a maximum of \$400,000.

ANROWS is in the process of applying to list its *Research Priorities Grants* in the [Australian Competitive Grants Register](#),<sup>3</sup> as a Category 1 Grants program.

An abridged version of the information included in this document can also be found on ANROWS's website at [anrows.org.au](http://anrows.org.au).

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<sup>3</sup> <https://education.gov.au/australian-competitive-grants-register>.

## Section 1 - Funding rules

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## Project requirements

### Eligibility

Any Australian-based institution or organisation with the capacity to undertake research is invited to apply for funding within the ANROWS Research Priorities Grants. Proposals from non-research institutions, practice or community-based organisations, communities and remote regions are encouraged. Organisations without experience in managing research projects, are encouraged to establish a partnership with research institutions. ANROWS can assist with the establishment of research partnerships that build capacity in responding to violence against women across research, practice and community sectors. Joint or collaborative proposals should be submitted as one application by the lead organisation (principal researcher) with partner institutions named on the application.

Staff, Board Members or consultants of ANROWS, their immediate families, or companies in which any of the abovementioned hold Director or Management Committee positions, are ineligible to apply for funding under the ANROWS Research Priorities Grants.

Successful applicants must be able to enter into a funding agreement with ANROWS. These agreements, including the schedules outlining outcome milestones and payments, will be negotiated following the determination of successful projects.

### Essential requirements

Each application for funding under the Priority Research Grants program must address one of the topics detailed in Section 2 and comply with the essential project requirements for all ANROWS Research Projects. These are:

1. They must be designed to do any one or more of the following:
  - develop the understanding of domestic violence and sexual assault
  - identify measures and interventions that:
    - a. prevent violence against women;
    - b. stop re-offending;
    - c. promote the best interests and safety of women and their children;
    - d. enable recovery from domestic violence and sexual assault
  - inform or influence government policy, programs and practice concerning domestic violence and sexual assault
  - explore ways to improve service delivery, particularly across the domestic violence and sexual assault sectors
  - explore actions that prevent domestic violence and sexual assault.
  
2. They must comply with the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#).<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/r39>.

3. Where research involves human beings as subjects, they must comply with the relevant National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines and codes.<sup>5</sup> In particular, applicants must demonstrate access to an appropriate Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC), such as those [registered with the NHMRC](#).<sup>6</sup> Before signing funding agreements, applicants will have to obtain approval from an appropriate HREC.
4. If conducting research with Indigenous people, they must [follow AIATSIS Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies \(2012\)](#),<sup>7</sup> including conducting research in a manner that is culturally appropriate, informed and controlled by the community.
5. The maintenance of the safety of women and their children must be the primary consideration in any ANROWS research project. Appropriate support must be provided to women and their children participating in the research, or those affected by the project (for example where their partner/the children's father is the research participant). Respect for the dignity and well-being of participants in projects must take precedence over any expected benefits to knowledge. Participants should also be informed of the findings of the research, where safe and appropriate to do so.
6. Projects must fall under the category of 'research' defined as:

*the creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies and understandings. This could include synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it leads to new and creative outcomes.*<sup>8</sup>

Included in this definition are applied forms of research, where the focus is as much on the translation and application of knowledge in relevant settings, as it is on the generation of new knowledge. In the social sciences, this can take various forms, such as action research.

7. Projects must be designed to deliver results of national benefit (i.e. findings should be of national interest or of interest to more than one Australian jurisdiction).
8. Projects must have a reasonable and cost-effective budget.

## Desirable features

ANROWS also encourages grant applicants to include the desirable features listed below in their project design, however, these are not essential. Desirable features are that projects:

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health-ethics>.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health-ethics/human-research-ethics-committees-hrecs/list-human-research-ethics-committees>.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/files/research/GERAIS.pdf>. AIATSIS is the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

<sup>8</sup> Australian Competitive Grants Register 2014. See <http://docs.education.gov.au/node/35373>.



1. build research capacity and partnerships through, for example:
  - a. collaboration between researchers from different organisations
  - b. participation of project team members from government agencies, direct service providers and/or women and their children
  - c. inclusion of research students or early career researchers on the project team.
2. are multi-jurisdictional. For example, the research is national in scope or actively involves two or more Australian states and/or territories.
3. provide a unique contribution to research expertise and/or practice relevant to the area of violence against women and their children. This may include the use of an innovative methodological approach, in addition to contributing to knowledge about the content area (where this methodology is appropriate for the proposed topic).

### Risks and conflicts of interests

Project risks must be identified in the application. Risks might include limited availability of equipment, services or potential interviewees, safety risks for research staff, or uncertain access to grey literature, unpublished reports or data. Strategies to manage risks should also be outlined in the proposal.

Applicants must declare any conflict of interest that exists or is likely to arise in relation to any aspect of the proposed project. If a conflict of interest exists or arises, the applicant's organisation must have documented processes in place for managing conflicts. These must comply with the NHMRC [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) (2007).<sup>9</sup>

### Budget

Applications should include a budget that outlines all project-related expenses. The budget should be accompanied by a justification of these expenses. Other income sources should also be included with the budget, in accordance with the online application form. Applicants are requested to verify all figures before submitting the application.

Budgets should include the costing information for salaries, administration, travel, capital expenditure, knowledge translation and dissemination and other costs.

### Funded budget items

#### Salaries

In calculating rates of pay, applicants should refer to any relevant enterprise agreement of the host institution or organisation. Salary on-costs should be included.

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<sup>9</sup> NHMRC 2007, available at <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/r39>.

### Administration

Project administrative costs should not be greater than 15% of the total budget.

### Travel

Travel costs include, costs related to the collection and analysis of data, such as airfares (economy class), accommodation, meals, car hire, taxi fares, train and car mileage. In calculating travel costs, applicants should refer to the [Australian Tax Office \(ATO\) Tax Determination on travel-related expenditure](#).<sup>10</sup>

### Equipment, software or other capital expenditure

Equipment, software or other capital expenditure should be costed fractionally if it is to be used by the organisation beyond the project's duration, or if it is to be used for other, non-project activities during the life of the project.

### Knowledge translation and dissemination costs

Project budgets should include the costs associated with their proposed strategy to engage with the broader community or with key project beneficiaries, such as service providers or governments. Such costs might include travelling to a conference to deliver a webinar presentation, or costs associated with the hosting of a training event or workshop.

The cost of designing and producing electronic copies of contracted publications, such as projects' literature reviews and research reports, will be covered by ANROWS.

### Other costs

Costs for stationery, telephone, partnership development and other similar expenses should also be included in the budget. As with all budget items, an explanation for their inclusion and the amount requested should be provided in the budget justification.

### Excluded costs

The following items should not be included in budget as they will not be funded by ANROWS:

- Teaching relief
- Equipment, software or other capital expenses that will not be used primarily for the project
- Car or vehicle purchase.

### Budget justification

A budget justification should be included in each application providing an explanation for the all costs: purchase, salaries (including why the staff are required and what tasks they will be performing), travel and other costs.

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<sup>10</sup> Available at <http://law.ato.gov.au/pdf/pbr/td2013-016.pdf>.

## Submission process

Applicants must submit project details as required, using the ANROWS Research Priorities Grants online application form at [anrows.org.au](http://anrows.org.au). These details include project summaries, research approaches (methodologies), budget information and proposed knowledge translation and exchange strategies.

All applications should be submitted through the ANROWS Grants portal, accessed through the website at [anrows.org.au](http://anrows.org.au). Browsers' system requirements to access the ANROWS Grants portal are listed below. Applicants may need to enable the pop-up window function within their browser.

Browser compatibility:

- Internet Explorer v7 (limited) or 8
- Firefox v 2+
- Safari v3+
- Google Chrome v 3+

Applicants should complete all fields on the application forms and comply with the stated word limits, when applicable. All information included on the application must be accurate and not be misleading or false. This includes information about prior research, publications, capacity and proposed timelines.

The application should stand alone in providing sufficient information to peer assessors as there will be no further opportunities to provide additional information.

## Number of applications and topics

Each proposal must address one of the ANROWS Research Priorities Topics published within the given funding round. These topics are detailed in Section 2 of this document and are also available at [anrows.org.au](http://anrows.org.au). If researchers wish to apply for funding under more than one topic or for several projects under the same topic, each project must be submitted on a separate application form.

## Completing the application form

The Research Priorities Grants application form has been designed to assist ANROWS obtain all the information needed to select proposals based on merit, including addressing the project requirements, desirable features of projects, and selection criteria (listed in Section 1 of this document). It is vital that applicants familiarise themselves with these criteria and ensure they are addressed in their application.

Applicants can access the Research Priorities Grants program application form through a link on [anrows.org.au](http://anrows.org.au). This link takes applicants to the ANROWS grants management portal, where they will be requested to create a unique user name and password, before being taken to the form. Applicants are advised to keep a record of this user name and password. Please fill in all fields in the application form, and upload documents where requested.

ANROWS uses the Australian Institute of Grants Management system, SmartyGrants. SmartyGrants provide a [Help Guide](#) for applicants which includes detailed information about the application form and submission

of applications.<sup>11</sup> Additional information about key fields in the Research Priorities Grants application form is provided below.

### Page 1: Researchers' profile

Details of the lead organisation, which is the organisation where the principal researcher is located, must be included. For joint applications, a lead organisation and principal researcher must be identified.

Applicants must also provide details of the person who can authorise the applicant's capacity to apply for grants on the organisations behalf. This might include, for example, the Research Office Director, CEO of an organisation or Deputy Vice-Chancellors.

Partner organisations are those involved as co-researchers, but do not include organisations or communities providing advice to researchers.

In addition, applicants are asked to provide a brief resume, which will provide ANROWS with information about their track record. Please include qualifications, relevant publications, community leadership positions and advisory positions, as relevant, in this resume. Please also list any community or organisational links relevant to the project application.

### Page 2: Organisation details

The general purpose of the organisation should be included here; for example 'teaching and research', 'provides direct support services to women experiencing domestic violence', or 'hospital providing medical care and patient management across a range of specialties including obstetrics and emergency'.

### Page 3: Project details summary

This page assists ANROWS with pre-assessment administration, hence applicants are asked to provide information about the Strategic Research Theme and Topic number and name of their project. This information is published for each grants round with the callout at [anrows.org.au](http://anrows.org.au) and in Section 2 of this document.

For the 2014 grant rounds, there are five strategic Research Themes, based on the four themes in the National Research Agenda (see above), with a fifth added to address knowledge translation and evaluation research.

The central contact for the project should be listed on this page. This may be the principal researcher or a project administrator.

### Page 4: Research project description

Key project information is captured in this page, including aims, methodology, value of the research to potential stakeholders working to reduce violence against women and their children, and proposed strategies for communicating findings of research findings to them, and other potential audiences. These might include, for example, professional training modules, service models or practice guidelines, webinars or conference presentations, depending on the project.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://help.smartygrants.com.au/display/help/Help+Guide+for+Applicants>

Key elements enabling compliance with ANROWS essential project requirements should also be noted here. For example research involving human subjects, including clients or victims, requires approval from an ethics committee, and observance of AIATSIS guidelines is required for research with Indigenous communities. For more information, see the *Funding Rules* in Section 2 of this document.

It is also important that projects prioritise the safety of women and children at all times. If services or clients, or perpetrators of domestic or sexual violence are included in the study, researchers must outline how they will ensure that the safety and well-being of women and children is maintained. Potential risks will need to be identified and addressed here.

Other project risks, such as difficulties securing service or client participation, limited availability of equipment or services, or safety risks for research staff should also be outlined where noted on the form.

#### **Page 5: Project budget**

Budgets should include staff salary costs, administrative costs, resources, travel, conference attendance and costs associated with producing the project deliverables, including conference attendance and other dissemination strategies.

Budget justifications should be uploaded as Word or pdf documents. These should explain the reasons for including budget items. Further information about budgets can be found in the *Funding Rules* in Section 2 of this document.

#### **Page 6: Referees**

Contact information should be included for referees from:

- previous project or grant funding bodies
- target audiences, beneficiaries or communities relevant to this project.

At least one referee should be directly familiar with the project's topic. For example, if the project involves significant liaison with government agencies, at least one referee should be from a government agency to demonstrate past experience working with government.

#### **Page 7: Attachments**

The online application form requires the uploading of documents, including researchers' resume and other supporting documents. These must be supplied as a PDF or a Microsoft Word compatible format.

Information to assist applicants with submissions is available below and from [anrows.org.au](http://anrows.org.au), in the Research Program Grants pages. Please contact ANROWS at [enquiries@anrows.org.au](mailto:enquiries@anrows.org.au) if further information or assistance with the application process is required.

#### **Page 8: Declaration**

To submit an application, applicants must acknowledge they have read these funding rules in a declaration on the last page of the application form.

## **Closing date**

Applications must be received no later than 5 pm, Eastern Standard/Daylight Saving (Sydney) time on the closing date of applications. This date is published on the ANROWS website for each funding round. Please adjust for local differences, and allow time to resolve any potential connectivity issues if these are relevant.

Submitted applications will be considered final and changes will not be possible after the closing time and date. Submissions after this time will not be accepted by ANROWS.

## Section 2 – Research Priorities Topics

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## Overview

ANROWS invites applications to conduct projects addressing the Research Priorities Grants Topics, a summary of which is below.<sup>12</sup> These topics respond to current gaps in the evidence base about violence against women and their children. They have been compiled from analyses of current research and following consultations with stakeholders, including state, territory and the Commonwealth governments. The topic list aligns with the National Research Agenda, including its Strategic Research Themes (SRTs). The following pages provide detailed information about each topic to guide applicants in their proposals.

SRT	Open application topics
<b>SRT 1</b> Experience and impacts	1.2 Prevalence, incidence and dynamics of violence against immigrant and refugee women and their service needs.
	1.3 The effect of social and geographic isolation and remoteness on the ability of women to disclose, report, seek help and receive appropriate interventions following experiences of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.
	1.4 Interventions linking service responses for domestic violence and/or sexual assault with drug or alcohol use/abuse.
	1.5 The role of Indigenous cultures including, cultural resilience, healing, and raising children in extended family networks as potential protective factors in preventing or responding to violence against women.
	1.8 The impact of domestic violence on parenting, with particular attention to the tactics a perpetrator may use to disrupt the mother-child relationship and what helps to heal or strengthen this relationship.
	1.9 Relationship between mental health and sexual assault.
<b>SRT 3</b> Service responses and interventions	3.3 Evaluations of innovative approaches encompassing Indigenous perspectives that successfully support Australian Indigenous women subjected to family and/or sexual violence.
	3.4 Models of accessible service provision for women with disability who have experienced sexual assault and/or domestic violence.
	3.5 Embedding cultural security and cultural competency into mainstream services.
	3.6 Successful frameworks, models and early intervention programs for boys and young men who have experienced domestic or family violence and have used violence and/or sexually abusive behaviour towards others, especially other children including siblings.
<b>SRT 4</b> Systems	4.4 Understanding experiences of women with mental health issues who are sexually assaulted and/or experience domestic violence in engaging with all facets of the criminal justice system.
	4.5 Integrated child protection and domestic and family violence approaches and practice.
	4.6 The role of income support policies and employment and financial management services in building economic security for women who have experienced domestic and family violence.

<sup>12</sup> This is a list of open application topics only and not the entire ANROWS Research Program. Consequently, not all SRTs are in this list and the numbering of topics is not necessarily sequential. Information about the whole Research Program is at [anrows.org.au](http://anrows.org.au).



## Strategic Research Theme 1: Experience and impacts

### 1.2 Prevalence, incidence and dynamics of violence against immigrant and refugee women and their service needs.

#### Need

Women marginalised by culture, ethnicity, and visa status may be particularly at increased risk of, or heightened vulnerability to, sexual assault and domestic violence. Existing research suggest that they may also be less likely to have the resources or support to report it. There is a significant gap in nationally-focused research that investigates the specific experiences of immigrant and refugee women of both violence and seeking help after violence. Research is needed to explore:

- Prevalence and incidence of violence against immigrant and refugee women.
- The nature and dynamics of the violence, including consideration of experiences of female genital mutilation and forced marriage.
- The impact of cultural values, issues or norms within immigrant and refugee communities and how these fit with existing Australian social norms.
- The impact of post-arrival settlement experiences (e.g. rate of adjustment, experiences of social differences for both men and women, understanding of laws) on the nature and impact of violence against women.
- Confidence in obtaining help, including knowledge of who, how and where to obtain it.

#### Desired outcomes

- The first key deliverable for projects under this category will be an "existing state of knowledge" literature review summary report on the topic.
- Greater understanding of the nature of violence against immigrant and refugee women across and within particular communities. Of particular interest is the differentiation of women's experiences by factors such as: visa type (e.g. family reunion; student, business, no visa); newly arrived or well established communities; precariousness of employment; age; visible minority status; and experiences of pre-arrival violence or trauma and its impact on risk and vulnerability.
- The provision of an evidence base to assist service providers in the development of culturally appropriate services and violence prevention messages in the community.

#### Methodological considerations

- This research must include active participation of immigrant and refugee women and specialist migrant women's or settlement services.
- Qualitative research proposals should include a cross section of sites selected nationally that has had a significant increase of newly arrived groups in last 10 years as well as sites that have established immigrant communities. At least four different communities across at least two jurisdictions (i.e. states or territories) should be included in the research.
- Quantitative research proposals should aim to identify prevalence and incidence of violence against immigrant and refugee women in at least the top 10 of the largest newly arrived and established communities compared against the wider Australian community.

### 1.3 The effect of social and geographic isolation and remoteness on the ability of women to disclose, report, seek help and receive appropriate interventions following experiences of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.

#### Need

Women who experience violence who are isolated by social or geographic remoteness face unique challenges hindering their safety and access to appropriate service responses. In particular the nature of small, close-knit and/or remote communities may limit the capacity for confidentiality on disclosure and the availability of support. For Indigenous people especially, the need to maintain connection to country, family and culture for the woman's well-being may limit options.

Research is needed on how remoteness impacts on women who have experienced violence and the effect of social and geographic isolation on women at risk seeking assistance and accessing services. Of particular interest is what support, information and services are most effective in assisting these women. It would be valuable to compare and contrast the impact of different types of isolation and remoteness for example for Indigenous women in remote communities, culturally and linguistically diverse women including victims of forced marriage; women with disability and women with mental health or drug and alcohol issues. Although not the primary focus of this research, consideration of how social and geographic isolation affects the nature of perpetrators' violence against these women would also be of interest.

#### Desired outcomes

- The first key deliverable for projects within this category will be an "existing state of knowledge"/literature review summary report on the topic.
- Contribute to the limited evidence on how remoteness impacts on a woman who has experienced violence, including providing information for service providers and policy officers about what support, information and services are most effective in helping these women to access help.
- Ideally, address both sexual assault and domestic violence. Applications that address either sexual assault or domestic violence will still be considered for this topic.

#### Methodological considerations

- This research must include the active participation of women and their communities experiencing social and geographic remoteness. Projects will, therefore, need to be 'with' and 'by' women and their communities. This research will ideally be conducted in collaboration with service providers located in socially and geographically remote communities.
- The selection of communities and/or women to be included in this study should be diverse, must include Indigenous communities, and is expected to be a complex aspect of the research design. Proposals should outline:
  - How many, how diverse (i.e. which communities) and in which remote localities researchers are planning on conducting in their study?
  - The possible different types of methods that will be required to identify, contact and engage with women from different communities or sub-populations in remote localities.

## 1.4 Interventions linking service responses for domestic violence and/or sexual assault with drug or alcohol use/abuse.

### Need

There is substantial evidence that drug and alcohol use/abuse by the perpetrator and/or victim increases the severity of, or vulnerability to, violence against women. The use and/or abuse of drugs and alcohol may also be a coping mechanism for victims of violence. The sectors responding to each issue are often siloed and tend to operate from quite different paradigms and service models. . In the context of public policy debates that broadly explore the links between alcohol and violence, more research is needed on the intersection between drug and/or alcohol use/abuse and violence against women.

### Desired outcomes

- The first key deliverable for projects within this category will be an "existing state of knowledge"/literature review summary report on the topic.
- Inform the development of more sophisticated approaches that respond to complexities arising from the intersection of drug and/or alcohol use/ abuse and violence against women.
- Build bridges between service providers in the two sectors and build capacity to respond appropriately to violence against women and drug and alcohol abuse by improving understanding, knowledge and partnerships in each sector.
- Ideally, projects would include sexual assault, domestic violence, and drug and alcohol services across metropolitan, rural and remote areas.
- This project may be focused on either victims or on victims and perpetrators of violence against women.

### Methodological considerations

- This research must be conducted in collaboration with service providers in both the violence against women and drug and alcohol fields, as well as Indigenous services where appropriate.
- Multiple cases study approach may be the best option methodologically provided the key variables identified above are addressed.

## **1.5 The role of Indigenous cultures including, cultural resilience, healing, and raising children in extended family networks as potential protective factors in preventing or responding to violence against women.**

### **Need**

The high prevalence, incidence and severity of violence against women in Indigenous communities and its links to colonisation, dispossession and inter-generational trauma is well established. There is, however, a dearth of research that explores resilience and protective factors and features within Indigenous communities that prevent, or mitigate the effects of, family violence and sexual assault.

Research is needed that addresses this issue, including exploring the impact of broader social policies and approaches such as self-determination and dry communities on violence against women. Of particular interest is how these protective factors could be supported and utilised in strategies to prevent victims of violence experiencing homelessness, displacement, and disruption to family and community, employment, education or other support networks.

### **Desired outcome:**

- The first key deliverable for projects within this category will be an "existing state of knowledge"/literature review summary report on the topic.
- A better understanding of strengths and common features of Indigenous communities that could inform the development of culturally appropriate programs, services and models at the policy, prevention, early intervention and tertiary intervention levels.

### **Methodological consideration:**

- This research must be conducted in collaboration with one or more Indigenous communities and/or organisations.

## **1.8 The impact of domestic violence on parenting, with particular attention to the tactics a perpetrator may use to disrupt the mother-child relationship and what helps to heal or strengthen this relationship.**

### **Need**

There is a growing international body of evidence on the ways that perpetrators of both domestic violence and child abuse in the context of domestic violence (particularly child sexual abuse), target the mother-child relationship as part of the abuse. More research, however, is needed of the Australian context beyond small-scale and exploratory studies. There has also been little attention given to systemic responses that worsen the impact of this abuse on children, such as:

- Judicial and non-judicial decision-making in the Family Law context for separating families resulting in the removal of children from their mothers due to purported ‘parental alienation’ when they raise safety concerns
- ‘Failure to protect’ laws that often punish women who are also victims of violence.
- Barriers that child protection practices and other systems may create to repairing these relationships.

Research is needed which explores:

- The methods and behaviours that perpetrators use to disrupt mother-child relationships.
- • The nature and impact of systems’ responses that may further damage mother-child relationships following violence, with particular attention to Family Law and child protection contexts.
- Interventions that promote positive and healthy mother-child relationships following violence.

### **Desired outcomes**

- The first key deliverable for projects within this category will be an "existing state of knowledge"/literature review summary report on the topic.
- Insight into the impact of violence against women on mothering including attention to the impact of different types of abuse perpetrated against the mother and/or child in the context of domestic violence.
- Evidence on therapeutic approaches and interventions that repair and/or strengthen the mother-child relationship following violence.
- Recommendations for policy and systems improvements that facilitate positive and healthy relationships between the mother and child following violence, and which remove or avoid systems-based elements that damage the mother-child relationship.

## 1.9 Relationship between mental health and sexual assault.

### Need

The relationship between mental health issues and sexual assault is complex. Women with mental health issues, including diagnosed mental illness, have increased vulnerability to sexual violence. Deteriorating mental health is also arguably the most common consequence of violence against women, including sexual assault.

The intersection between mental health issues and sexual violence is, however, poorly understood and there is a dearth of current Australian research. In particular, there is a lack of evidence to guide service responses to victims of violence who also have a severe mental illness.

Research is needed that explores two separate, but related issues:

1. the relationship between pre-existing mental health issues and greater risk or increased vulnerability to sexual violence and
2. the impact of sexual violence on women's mental health in terms of both being a causative factor in the deterioration of mental health for women without prior mental health histories as well as the exacerbation of existing mental health concerns following sexual violence.

### Desired outcomes

- The first key deliverable for projects within this category will be an "existing state of knowledge"/literature review summary report on the topic.
- Greater understanding of the links between mental health issues and sexual violence that draw on complex trauma theories and inform policy and service provision in both the violence against women and mental health sectors.
- The provision of an evidence base and specific recommendations for service responses to victims of sexual violence with mental illness.
- The provision of an evidence base and specific recommendations for service responses to decrease the vulnerability of women with mental health issues to initial or subsequent experiences of sexual violence in community and institutional settings.

## Strategic Research Theme 3: Service responses and interventions

### 3.3 Evaluations of innovative approaches encompassing Indigenous perspectives that successfully support Australian Indigenous women subjected to family and/or sexual violence.

#### Need

Research concerning violence within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities consistently reports that the support needs of Indigenous women are not well met through mainstream service models. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have called for services that address the needs of the whole family and that are community-owned and driven to account for cultural and place-based contexts in which the violence occurs and services are delivered. Notions of successful service outcomes are also influenced by cultural and geographic contexts (e.g. having the perpetrator removed from the home, or the woman (and children) leaving the perpetrator, is not a realistic outcome in many Indigenous contexts). Research on innovative services and responses that integrate these principles and measure outcomes from an Indigenous perspective is required, while maintaining a focus on the safety needs of women, children, households and communities.

#### Desired outcomes

- Review and development of appropriate outcome measures and evaluation strategies for assessing ‘what works’ for Indigenous women across diverse communities. This would include Indigenous women’s perspectives on successful outcomes.
- Evaluations that provide new evidence about innovative approaches to supporting Indigenous women that include Indigenous perspectives on successful outcomes.
- Evidence to support policy, program development and practice informed by Indigenous perspectives on what works in supporting Indigenous women to overcome trauma and achieve safety.
- Ideally, projects will include both sexual assault and domestic violence, however applications to address either sexual assault or domestic violence will be considered for this topic.

#### Methodological considerations

- This research must be conducted in collaboration with one or more Indigenous communities and/or organisations.
- Where possible, comparative evaluations of different approaches in different Indigenous communities should be conducted that seek to identify key elements of successful approaches that may apply across contexts.

### 3.4 Models of accessible service provision for women with disability who have experienced sexual assault and/or domestic violence.

#### Need

Women and girls with disability, particularly cognitive impairments, are at considerably heightened risk and are consistently identified as experiencing violence and abuse at a higher rate (prevalence rates of between 40-70%) than women in the general population. International research also indicates that women with disabilities experience violence from multiple perpetrators and for extended periods of time in comparison to those without disabilities. Regardless of these findings, anecdotal evidence suggests that women with disability are less likely to be believed when they disclose violence, have poor access to effective and timely information and support services and poor justice outcomes.

The 'Stop the Violence Project', a research project on violence against women and girls with disability funded under the National Plan, identified that research is needed on their use of relevant services and the nature of their service needs.

#### Desired outcomes

- The first key deliverable for projects within this category will be an "existing state of knowledge"/literature review summary report on the topic.
- Inform the improvement of service systems to appropriately respond to the individual needs of women with disability, including consideration of service eligibility criteria and the accessibility of facilities.
- Improve service providers' knowledge in developing and implementing Disability Action Plans.
- Information that may assist policy-makers in the development of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- Ideally, projects will include both sexual assault and domestic violence, however applications to address either sexual assault or domestic violence will be considered for this topic.

#### Methodological considerations

- This research will include active participation of women with disability and collaboration with service providers in this area.
- An illustrative and descriptive multiple case study methodology may be appropriate for this topic. This would require examining at least two different models in at least two or more jurisdictions.



### 3.5 Embedding cultural security and cultural competency into mainstream services.

#### Need

In a context where the high prevalence and incidence of violence against Indigenous women has been well established, anecdotal evidence suggests that mainstream services often struggle to provide culturally appropriate and safe services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who have experienced violence. There is a substantial gap in research on how mainstream services may best meet the needs of Indigenous women. Research would be particularly valuable on:

- Whether strategies to embed cultural competency and cultural security improve access and responsiveness to Indigenous women who have experienced violence.
- How concepts of cultural healing, trauma-informed practice and understanding and responding to issues such as colonisation and inter-generational trauma can be incorporated into mainstream service delivery.

#### Desired outcomes

- The first key deliverable for projects within this category will be an "existing state of knowledge"/literature review summary report on the topic.
- Provide policy-makers and service providers with information about service models and practice frameworks (e.g. trauma-informed and culturally secure) that facilitate accessible and responsive services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children.
- Encourage a more consistent, yet locally flexible, approach to delivery of services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children experiencing violence.

#### Methodological considerations

- This research must be conducted in collaboration with one or more Indigenous communities and/or organisations.
- A multiple case study methodology which is qualitative (illustrative and descriptive) may be appropriate for this topic.

### **3.6 Successful frameworks, models and early intervention programs for boys and young men who have experienced domestic or family violence and have used violence and/or sexually abusive behaviour towards others, especially other children including siblings.**

#### **Need**

Practice experience and emerging research suggests that there is an inter-generational pattern where young boys and adolescents using violence have frequently themselves grown up in an environment where violence has been prevalent, or where they have experienced childhood trauma. In particular, many boys who sexually abuse other children (including siblings) have been exposed to domestic and family violence. Although this issue has been raised as of particular concern for remote Aboriginal communities, specialist practitioners believe it is a more widespread concern.

While a number of services and systems are involved in the lives of these boys and their families (including police, child protection and health services) there is limited research evidence on the types of service interventions, types of interagency communication and collaboration, and other strategies that are successful in intervening with these boys to prevent their ongoing use of violence and abuse in the short and long term.

#### **Desired outcomes**

- The first key deliverable for projects within this category will be an "existing state of knowledge"/literature review summary report on the topic.
- Inform the development of improved service delivery and early intervention programs that address the effects of domestic and family violence and help prevent violence and offending, in childhood, adolescence and adulthood.
- Provide recommendations for how agencies can better communicate and provide consistent and joined-up responses to this group of children and young people within both mainstream and Indigenous-specific programs.

#### **Methodological consideration:**

- The methodology should balance the need for standardised comparative information about results from different programs (i.e. a broad range of types to be surveyed with an adequate number of cases) against the need also to recognise and respond to the limitations of quantitative data in terms of exploring common features of different types of successful interventions that could be replicated in other types of programs.

## Strategic Research Theme 4: Systems

### **4.4 Understanding experiences of women with mental health issues who are sexually assaulted and/or experience domestic violence in engaging with all facets of the criminal justice system.**

#### **Need**

Against a background of low reporting, low prosecution and low convictions in sexual assault matters, women with mental health issues who are sexually assaulted are particularly vulnerable and are even less likely than are other women to have a positive experience with the justice system.

Research is needed on the experiences with the justice system of women and girls with mental health issues who have experienced sexual assault and/or domestic violence, including, but not limited to:

- reporting to police
- domestic violence intervention and/or protection orders
- criminal prosecutions
- justice-based support services (e.g. victims of crime compensation and other support schemes administered by, or within, justice agencies).

#### **Desired outcomes**

- The first key deliverable for projects within this category will be an "existing state of knowledge"/literature review summary report on the topic.
- Provide better understandings of the engagement of women with mental health issues with the justice system, including identifying gaps and features of best practice that improve and strengthen justice responses to this vulnerable group of women.
- Inform improvements to justice responses, interventions and advocacy for women with mental health issues who have experienced sexual assault and domestic violence.
- Ideally, projects will include both sexual assault and domestic violence, however applications to address either sexual assault or domestic violence will be considered for this topic.

#### **Methodological considerations**

- This research will include active participation of women with mental health issues and collaboration with service providers in this area.
- This research would require exploring women's experiences in at least two or more state or territory jurisdictions.

## 4.5 Integrated child protection and domestic and family violence approaches and practice.

### Need

For child protection services, domestic and family violence is a chronic problem with overwhelming increases in referrals of children exposed to domestic violence over the last decade. Research has explored a long and contested history within child protection responses of 'mother blaming' (i.e. holding the mother accountable for violence they have not committed), ignoring the male perpetrator and 'rescuing' the child without recognising violence towards the mother. On the one hand, research has also explored the disconnect between child protection systems that demand women leave relationships for the safety of their children and family law systems, which demand that those same women facilitate relationships between their children and ex-partner even when that partner has been violent. On the other hand, domestic violence services such as refuges have been criticised for failing to respond adequately to the needs of children who have experienced violence.

The need for integrated responses and differential pathways for women and children exposed to domestic violence who come into contact with the child protection system has been acknowledged in recent years with all jurisdictions pursuing changes in practice in this area. Domestic violence services have also increasingly acknowledged and responded to the needs of children distinct from those of their mothers, including through the provision of specialist children's workers. Research is needed on this emerging area of practice that evaluates integrated approaches and identifies key elements of what works in practice in the interface between child-focused, statutory and involuntary child protection services on one hand and woman-centred, voluntary and empowerment-focused domestic violence services on the other.

### Desired outcomes:

- The first key deliverable for projects within this category will be an "existing state of knowledge"/literature review summary report on the topic.
- Identification of key features of successful integrated responses and differential pathways between the child protection, domestic violence and, where appropriate, family law service systems that maximise the safety and recovery of both women and their children who have experienced domestic violence.
- Recommendations for policy, systems and service delivery improvements at the interface of child protection, family law and domestic violence systems.

### Methodological considerations

- The methodology should include at least two or more different types of integrated responses in two or more state and territory jurisdictions.

## **4.6 The role of income support policies and employment and financial management services in building economic security for women who have experienced domestic and family violence.**

### **Need**

Economic insecurity is significant in increasing women's vulnerability to violence and exacerbating the impact of the abuse. Economic abuse, including disruption to employment, is also a less well-known, recognised or researched facet of domestic violence. Government policies and services addressing women's need for economic security, including income support, impact on the options available to them in seeking safety for themselves and their children. Employment, income management and financial management services may also play a role in building economic security for women who have experienced violence, enhancing their safety and minimising the impact of violence.

Research is needed on whether and how income support policies, including employment support programs and income or financial management services, affect building economic security for women and whether they reduce vulnerability to economic abuse and/or increase safety or well-being following violence. Research is also needed into factors which might increase or reduce the risk of economic abuse by perpetrators of violence.

### **Desired outcomes**

- The first key deliverable for projects within this category will be an "existing state of knowledge"/literature review summary report on the topic.
- Greater understanding of the nature of economic abuse, the diversity of tactics used, and the types of approaches, policies and programs which might reduce the incidence and impacts of this form of abuse.
- Map or overview of current government policy and programs impacting on women's economic security following domestic violence and whether any available literature identifies their efficacy and/or whether there are contradictory or inconsistent outcomes.
- Recommendations about the types, or key features, of government policies and programs that best enhance women's economic security and safety as well as reduce their vulnerability to economic abuse. This should include those approaches that best support women to leave an abusive relationship, where this is their preferred choice.

### **Methodological consideration:**

- This project must include services working with the diversity of women experiencing economic abuse, including Indigenous services, services for women with disability, homelessness and crisis housing services, settlement services, and so on.

## Section 3 – Selection process

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## Selection stages

Projects are selected for funding by ANROWS following assessment by peer assessors drawn from an expert pool of researchers, government officers, academics and senior practitioners. This enables ANROWS to review project applications and select successful projects based on merit against the project selection criteria. Final decisions about project funding rests with the ANROWS Board.

Peer assessors must adhere to principles and guidelines covering conflicts of interest and confidentiality, which have been developed in accordance with national and international standards. These are available at [anrows.org.au](http://anrows.org.au).

The process for assessing and selecting successful projects for ANROWS Research Priorities Grants funding is outlined below.

### 1. Initial Processing of applications

Applications are processed by ANROWS staff to ensure project requirements are met and to group them across Strategic Research Themes for peer assessment panels.

### 2. Selection of projects for recommended funding

Peer assessors within each panel review applications before meeting. Panels then determine which projects should be recommended to the ANROWS Board for funding, based on merit assessed against the Selection Criteria, and following referee checks.

ANROWS sends notices of offer to successful applicants.

Feedback reports will be sent to unsuccessful applicants.

### 3. Preparation and signing of funding agreements/contracts.

Once ANROWS receives acceptances to the notices of offer, funding agreements are prepared and signed by both parties. These agreements include schedule containing budgets, reporting milestones and payments, and expected project outcomes.

### 4. Publication of successful grants on the ANROWS website

Successful projects will be announced publicly as part of the *ANROWS Research Program 2014-15* and published on the ANROWS website.

## Selection criteria

Submitted grant applications will be assessed on merit by a peer assessment panel against the selection criteria listed below. The online application form at [anrows.org.au](http://anrows.org.au) has been constructed in a way that ensures applicants have the opportunity to address each of these selection criteria within the application.

## 1. Research project

- The value of the project's contribution to knowledge, including whether it fills a genuine gap in the literature.
- The likelihood of the project resulting in evidence that may inform or influence government policy, programs and practice concerning domestic violence, family violence and/or sexual assault.
- The merit of the project, including its cost-effectiveness.
- Response to any specified additional criteria for the project, such as active collaboration with, or involvement of, specific groups or populations where appropriate (e.g. certain types of service providers or policy-makers, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities or organisations, women with disability).

## 2. Desirable features for ANROWS projects

- Incorporation of elements of the desirable features for ANROWS research projects (i.e. capacity building, multi-jurisdictional, or innovative methodology).

## 3. Methodology and timelines

- The validity of the methodology and its consistency and appropriateness for the project in terms of anticipated outcome and proposed timeframe.
- The consideration of possible alternative methodologies for the project and identification of limitations of the methodology.
- The likelihood that the research can be completed within the proposed timelines.
- Ethical considerations regarding the methodology, including the likelihood that it will receive approval from an appropriate Human Research Ethics Committee.
- Identification of appropriate mechanisms within the project design to maintain the safety of, and support for, women and children affected by the research.

## 4. Budget

- Provision of a detailed and itemised budget.
- Consistency between the budget and the methodology.
- Justification for a reasonable and cost-effective budget.

## 5. Proposed dissemination strategies

- Identification of proposed dissemination strategies.
- Explanation of why these strategies are best suited to the project, including the likelihood that they will reach and engage the intended audience(s).
- Identification of how these strategies will result in the best knowledge transfer and impact on policy and/or service delivery.

## 6. Track record of applicants

- The project team demonstrates sufficient expertise and relevant experience to successfully complete the proposed research.



- The applicants' track record and referees' reports reflect their capacity to complete the proposed project on time and on budget.
- At least one referee provided by the applicant must support the project team's capacity to engage with the relevant target group or audience. For example, where the project concerns government agencies or a specific population group, at least one referee should be from government or that population group respectively.

## Funding agreement

Successful applicants must be able to enter into a funding agreement with ANROWS. These agreements, including the schedules outlining outcome milestones and payments, will be negotiated following the determination of successful projects.

## Intellectual property

Intellectual Property arising from project work during the life of the project, including reports, publications, webinars, community events or other dissemination strategies, is retained by ANROWS. Researchers will have unrestricted license to access any project material, and can use this material for further research purposes, publications or dissemination activities, following completion of the project.

## Incomplete or misleading information

Any projects which are found to contain false, misleading or inaccurate claims or information will be withdrawn from consideration for funding under the ANROWS Research Priorities Grants.

If ANROWS discovers an application has been assessed on the basis of false, misleading or inaccurate claims, ANROWS reserves the right to terminate funding in accordance with the Funding Agreement governing the project.

## Appeals

ANROWS decisions in regard to project funding may be appealed on administrative process grounds, however any recommendations made by ANROWS staff, Peer Assessment Panel or the ANROWS Board in relation to project eligibility or merit cannot be appealed. Appeals based on administrative process grounds can be lodged with the ANROWS CEO, within 28 days of receipt of the application outcome. These should outline the issues which are considered as grounds for appeal.

## Further information

For further information about the Research Priorities Grants application process, or for assistance with developing research partnerships, please contact ANROWS at [enquiries@anrows.org.au](mailto:enquiries@anrows.org.au).