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REPORT FINDS WHAT WORKS TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

An evaluation of two Tangentyere family violence primary prevention programs has found explicit messaging can assist in changing attitudes towards violence against women.

The Safe, Respected and Free from Violence Report is the first formal evaluation of primary prevention projects in the Northern Territory. It examined the impact of two projects, Girls Can Boys Can and Old Ways Are Strong.

Girls Can Boys Can is a partnership between the Tangentyere Family Violence Prevention Program and the Larapinta Child and Family Centre. It produces resources focused on breaking down fixed gender roles in early childhood.

Old Ways are Strong was developed in partnership with iTalk studios and challenged colonial attitudes to Aboriginal relationship and gender roles, specifically that violence against Aboriginal women is “just their culture”.

The report, named “Rante rante ampe Marle and Urreye” in Arrernte, (roughly translates to girls and boys are equal), was co-authored by The Equality Institute researcher Dr Chay Brown.

Dr Brown said the findings of the report provided evidence for funders and policy makers about what works in tackling the high rates of violence against women in the Northern Territory.

“While a high proportion of the people we spoke to thought violence was sometime justified, especially in cases involving jealousy, we found explicit messaging around gender equity was working to challenge attitudes.

“Resources and materials should be developed in accessible language and disseminated using a range of platforms including social media, print media and digital media.

“The evaluation also found primary prevention programs and workers should have sustainable funding with positions dedicated to these programs.

“Scant resources are often focused at the crisis end of the policy spectrum in violence against women. Extra attention should also be paid to programs that work to prevent violence.

“This includes targeting and tailoring initiatives that are developed in partnership with the communities they are to be implemented in.

“While important, awareness raising initiatives are not enough to shift harmful attitudes and behaviours.

“To prevent violence against women we need to fund and support long-term, evidence-based prevention initiatives that are appropriate for the Northern Territory and remote community contexts.”

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For more information

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