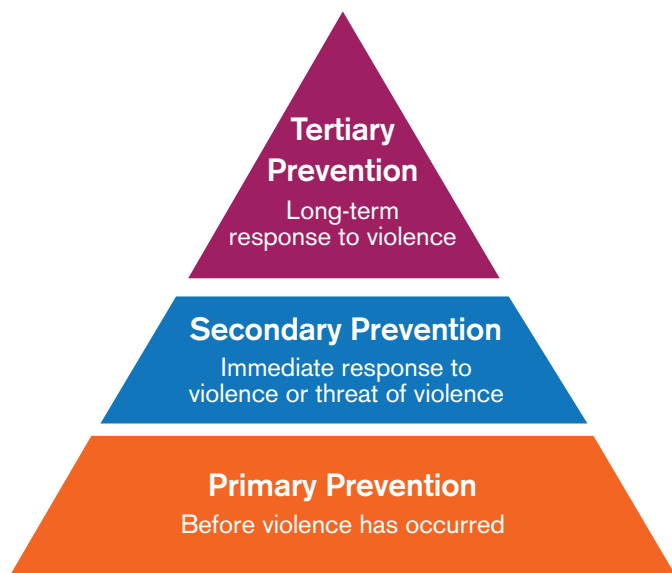


# What is primary prevention?

**Together we need to stop violence against women before it happens.**

This is the work of primary prevention and it is where the work of White Ribbon is focused.

However we can classify prevention and response to violence in a number of ways, for example:



In this factsheet, we explore the different types of violence prevention demonstrated in the diagram above.

## Primary Prevention

Primary prevention action to stop men's violence against women is implemented before violence occurs and aims to stop the likelihood of men and boys using violence against women and girls. This prevention action does this by addressing the root causes of violence<sup>i</sup>. The White Ribbon Campaign and associated programs focus on primary prevention.

Examples of primary prevention include:

- Public information and awareness-raising in mass media, workplaces and communities
- Educational programs in schools
- Programs in workplaces
- Government policy establishing frameworks and standards for preventing violence against women<sup>ii</sup> and promoting gender equality.

Primary prevention is aimed at the whole community.



## Secondary Prevention

Secondary prevention focuses on preventing violence from continuing or escalating. Secondary prevention is successful when violence is avoided or stops: victims are no longer victimised (e.g. by leaving a violent<sup>iii</sup> relationship) or perpetrators have stopped being violent.

Examples of secondary prevention include:

- Home visits from social workers for new mothers at risk of violence
- Behavioural change programs for men with anger management problems.

Secondary prevention is aimed at individuals and groups at risk of being victims or perpetrators of violence. People who have survived violence and perpetrators also benefit from secondary prevention.

## Tertiary Prevention

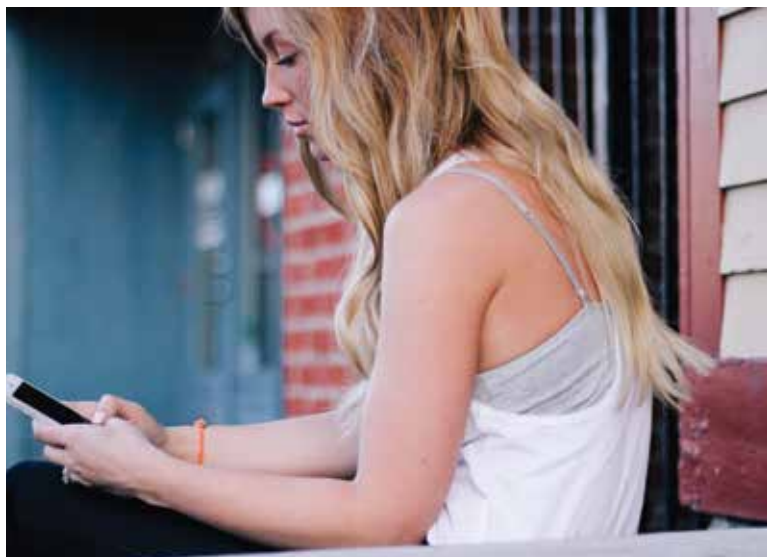
Tertiary prevention strategies are implemented after violence has occurred. Tertiary prevention focuses on minimising the impact of violence, restoring health and safety and preventing violence from occurring again<sup>iv</sup>.

Examples of tertiary prevention include<sup>v</sup>:

- Emergency accommodation
- Counselling and advocacy
- Criminal justice responses to perpetrators

This work can directly support primary and secondary prevention by reducing further perpetration and victimisation<sup>vi</sup>. Tertiary prevention also indirectly contributes to prevention by helping shape community attitudes about violence against women. For example, when community members see the criminal justice system punishing domestic violence, they are more likely to support victims and legal responses to violence<sup>vii</sup>.

Tertiary prevention is aimed at victims and perpetrators of violence.



<sup>i</sup>Chamberlain, L. (2008). *A prevention primer for domestic violence: Terminology, tools, and the public health approach*. Retrieved from: [http://www.vavnet.org/applied-research-papers/print-document.php?doc\\_id=1313](http://www.vavnet.org/applied-research-papers/print-document.php?doc_id=1313)

<sup>ii</sup>See, for example, the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2012* led by the Commonwealth, state and territory governments.

<sup>iii</sup>Carmody, M., Salter, M., Presterudstuen, G.H. (2014). *Less to lose and more to gain? Men and Boys Violence Prevention Research Project Final Report*, University of Western Sydney, Australia. Available from: [https://www.women.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/file/0019/300619/PDF\\_2\\_Final\\_Report\\_Men\\_and\\_Boys.pdf](https://www.women.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/file/0019/300619/PDF_2_Final_Report_Men_and_Boys.pdf) p.17

<sup>iv</sup>Chamberlain, op cit.

<sup>v</sup>Carmody et al., op cit., p.17

<sup>vi</sup>Carmody et al., op cit., p.18

<sup>vii</sup>Carmody et al., op cit., p.18