

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN SPORT

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La Trobe Rural Health School



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

La Trobe University acknowledges our campuses are located on the lands of many Traditional Custodians in Victoria and New South Wales. We recognise their ongoing connection to the land and value their unique contribution to the University and wider Australian society.

La Trobe University is committed to providing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, both as individuals and communities, through teaching, learning, research and partnerships across all our campuses.



*Bangerang
Barkindji
Boonerwrung
Dhudhuroa
Dja Dja Wurrung
Latji Latji
Muthi Muthi
Taunerong
Waywurru
Wiradjuri
Wurundjeri
Yorta Yorta*



FRAMING THE ISSUE OF GBV IN SPORT

GBV in sport is pervasive, harmful, and complex.

Prevalence rates for women range from 26–74%.

Sport is empowering yet reproduces gendered inequalities.

THE EVIDENCE BASE



MY RESEARCH: THE EVIDENCE

Metasynthesis

Women's experiences of GBV in sport (all roles, all levels)

- Safety work by women to avoid violence
- Normalisation of abusive behaviours
- Sport 'family' dynamics reinforcing power imbalance
- Organisational impotence or hostility
- Women's status as 'other' in patriarchal systems

Global

Scoping Review

Interpersonal GBV against adult women: what sports are doing to respond/prevent

- ❖ Literature dominated by sexual violence studies.
- ❖ Coach–athlete relationship most examined.
- ❖ Other forms of violence (IPV, online abuse) under-researched.
- ❖ Very little research on organisational responses.

Global

Concept Mapping & World Café studies

Sports, GBV response & prevention experts, researchers: addressing GBV in sport

- ❑ Training gaps and lack of skills
- ❑ Unclear policies and inconsistent processes
- ❑ Cultural barriers and stigma
- ❑ Underdeveloped reporting/referral systems
- ❑ Perception of limited capacity

Australia

POTENTIAL FOR PROMISING PRACTICE: AUSTRALIA

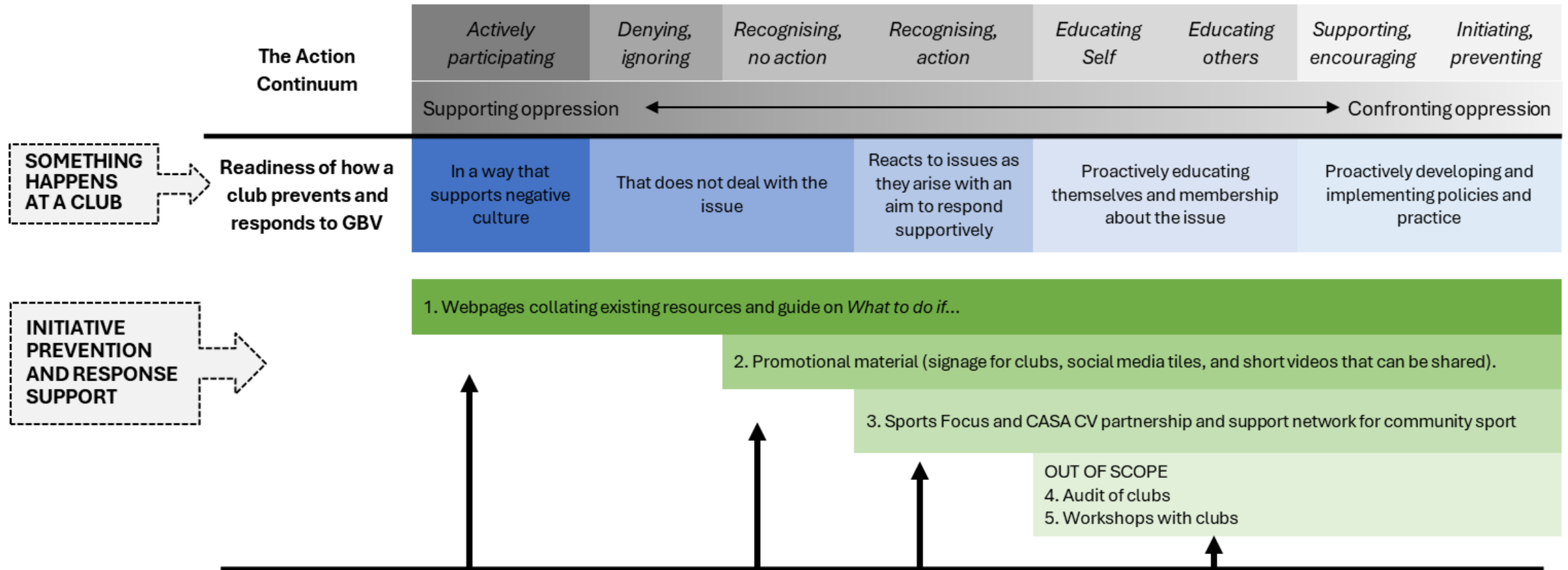
*Community Sport
Level Response*

- ✓ **Co-creation** with community organisations and survivor informed
- ✓ **Partnership** models strengthen readiness
- ✓ **Tools:** best practice response checklists, roadmaps, readiness frameworks
- ✓ **Shift** from 'bad apple' focus to systemic accountability
- ✓ **Legislative** backing

*National/State
Sport Level
Response*



READINESS TO RESPOND: **DEVELOPMENT**



Principles for support initiative approach

- Recognition that within each club there will be individuals that are at various stages of the Action Continuum
- Each part of the initiative should target clubs at various stages of readiness
- A scaffolding approach should ensure each part of the initiative builds on the previous
- The initiative as a whole should continue to re-enforce key messages and links/QR code to webpage by continually micro-dosing “*this event/action is contributing to GBV in your club and community*”, and “*if this happens at your club, you can go here for help, and/or do this..*”.

READINESS TO RESPONSE: AWARENESS

"WHAT DOES A WOMAN KNOW ABOUT COACHING FOOTBALL?!"

GENDER STEREOTYPING IS HARMFUL

WE SEE SOMETHING

"One of the guys on the committee walked past me talking to the club president. He was saying 'what does a woman know about coaching football?' There's canteen stuff she can do."

WE SAY SOMETHING

Gender stereotyping leads to inequality, a culture of gender-based violence. Challenge how roles are promoted or distributed around the club.

WE DO SOMETHING

Encourage any one to take on any role. Develop a gender equality action plan to support a welcoming and inclusive club environment.

FOR MORE SUPPORT & VIDEO RESOURCES SCAN THE QR CODE

SPORTS FOCUS
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SHOULDN'T EVERYONE FEEL RESPECTED + SAFE IN SPORT?

"STOP BEING SUCH A BUNCH OF GIRLS"

SEXIST COMMENTS ARE HARMFUL

WE SEE SOMETHING

"The captain was encouraging the team to be more aggressive. He shouted 'come on guys, fight hard for the ball, stop being such a bunch of girls.' Sexist comments are harmful. No one said anything."

WE SAY SOMETHING

We need to call out sexist behaviour. Choose not to accept it. Choose to say something to the person or the Club.

WE DO SOMETHING

Check out your Club's Code of Conduct. Ensure that it sets standards of acceptable behaviour, is widely displayed and regularly reinforced.

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SHOULDN'T EVERYONE FEEL RESPECTED + SAFE IN SPORT?

"THE COACH SLAPPED ME ON THE ARSE"

PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE IS HARMFUL

WE SEE SOMETHING

"As I came into the change rooms, the coach slapped me on the arse as I went passed. I felt sick. I felt afraid to say something. I stopped going to training."

WE SAY SOMETHING

Check in with the person who has experienced sexual assault. Report it to the relevant person at your club.

WE DO SOMETHING

Ensure your Club has a Harassment Protection policy and has a process to follow to respond to sexual assault.

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SHOULDN'T EVERYONE FEEL RESPECTED + SAFE IN SPORT?

"THE COMMENTS WERE NASTY"

ONLINE ABUSE IS HARMFUL

WE SEE SOMETHING

"There was a photo of me playing last year, zoomed in on my underwear, that ended up on the club's facebook pages. The comments were nasty. It took ages for the post to be removed."

WE SAY SOMETHING

Check in with the person who has experienced online abuse. Report it to the relevant person at your club, requesting the post be removed and the club to respond.

WE DO SOMETHING

Ensure your Club has a Harassment Protection policy and has a process to follow to respond to incidences of online abuse.

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SHOULDN'T EVERYONE FEEL RESPECTED + SAFE IN SPORT?

"IS THAT A MAN OR A WOMAN?"

WORDS CAN BE HARMFUL

WE SEE SOMETHING

"I felt strong getting out there and just doing something I loved. But at the first event, I kept hearing people whisper 'is that a man or woman?' I don't feel safe to go back."

WE SAY SOMETHING

Check in with the person who has experienced verbal abuse. Report it to the relevant person at your club.

WE DO SOMETHING

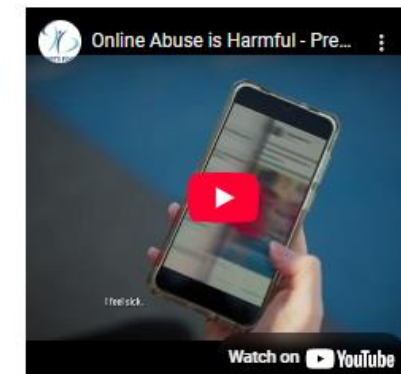
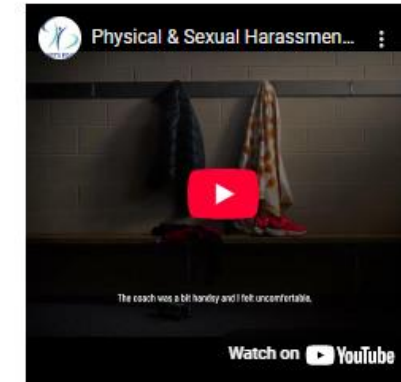
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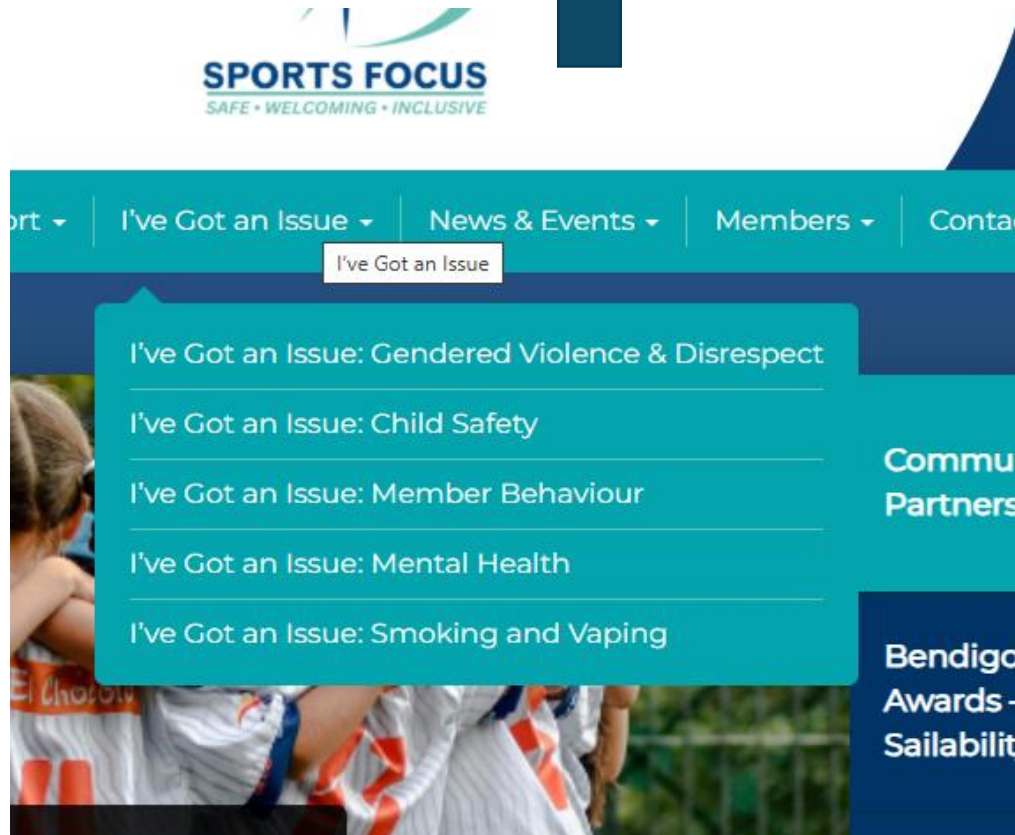
SHOULDN'T EVERYONE FEEL RESPECTED + SAFE IN SPORT?

Watch the videos



<https://sportsfocus.com.au/issue-gender-disrespect-violence/gendered-violence-in-sport-campaign-resources/>

READINESS TO RESPOND: INTEGRATION



We acknowledge Safe Sport Allies for messaging “See Something? Say something!”
Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union
<https://www.safesportallies.eu/>

I've Got an Issue: Gendered Violence & Disrespect

We know that instances of gendered violence or disrespect occur within the sporting club environment.

Below you will find resources and information to assist if you are required to support an individual or if you are a club committee person needing to respond to an incident.



Sporting Club Campaign -
Posters & Videos



I think I've seen or heard something
*Is it disrespect or violence?
What does it look like in sport?*

[Click Here](#)



Something has happened to me or someone I know
*What do I do?
What do I say?*

[Click Here](#)



We've had an incident
*How does our Club respond?
How can we prevent something from happening?*

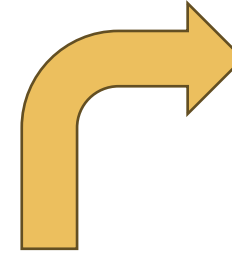
[Click Here](#)

Contact us

If you can't find what you're looking for or need further support, please contact Sports Focus.

SAFE TO SPEAK: BOUND TO ACT

1. What is GBV in sport & why does it matter?
2. Current response pathways
3. Best practice principles for safe and effective responses
4. Reflecting on real experiences
5. Readiness & Roadmap to respond



Policy Tracking

Policy Developers
and Implementers

Survivor Stories &
Unmet Needs

Best Practice
Responses



SO, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?



Practitioners – trauma-informed responses.



Sport organisations – clear policies, survivor-centred practices.



Governments – safeguarding frameworks and resourcing; legislative backing



Researchers – evidence, evaluation, co-design and survivor informed.

EVERYONE

THANK YOU