

## DEFINITIONS AND TERMS

**Feminist framework** is underpinned by feminism which is a social movement that seeks to highlight and address women's oppression, and to challenge and ultimately dismantle rigid gender stereotypes so that a person's sex does not define their interests, wealth, experiences, attributes or their capacity to contribute to society.

Feminism encompasses various different theoretical streams, and there is no single, official feminist framework. However, most feminist frameworks will emphasise

- listening to and valuing women's lived experiences through consultation,
- collaborative and egalitarian processes and structures (for example, where unequal structures aren't replicated by men taking on senior/managerial roles while women perform logistical and administrative tasks), and
- practices that reflect and value diversity amongst women, as well as their shared experiences.

**Gender** refers to the socially constructed norms, roles, responsibilities and expectations that shape our understanding of what it means to be a woman or a man within a given society at a particular time.

**Gender equity** is the process of being fair to women, men and gender diverse people and taking measures to achieve equal outcomes for all. To ensure fairness, measures must overcome historical and social disadvantage that prevent women and gender diverse people from accessing the same opportunities as men.

**Gender equality** is the realisation of equal and measurable outcomes for women, men and gender diverse people, giving equal value to their lives. This includes equal representation, status and rights, establishing equal opportunities for all people to contribute to national, political, social and cultural development and to benefit from the results.

**Integrated health promotion** is an approach used in Victoria to support the delivery of evidence-based initiatives that tackle the socio-economic determinants of priority health and wellbeing problems. The term specifically refers to organisations and agencies within an area (or catchment) working collaboratively to plan, implement and evaluate a mix of health promotion interventions and strategies, including:

- health education and information
- workforce development and training
- organisational capacity building
- community strengthening
- policy and legislative reform.

**Primary prevention** is action that seeks to prevent violence against women before it occurs by tackling its underlying determinants - the unequal distribution of power and resources between women and men, and an adherence to rigidly defined gender roles. Primary prevention is an integrated and coordinated response to the two determinants that takes place across the entire social ecology. Primary prevention is not to be confused with other types of intervention used in public health: secondary prevention (or early intervention) and tertiary prevention (defined below).

**Secondary prevention** (or early intervention) is action targeting individuals or population subgroups that are showing early signs of perpetrating violence or being subjected to it. It includes, for example, action that addresses controlling behaviours before they become established patterns, or action in environments in which there are strong signs that violence might occur because of a strong culture of devaluing and disrespecting women.

**Social ecology** is a way of conceptualising the different levels of social life – societal, community, organisational and individual – and how they inter-relate in sustaining factors that produce problems like violence against women. Understanding how these factors are sustained in social life is the first step in knowing what to do about them. For violence against women, the social ecology is typically represented as concentric circles, with the societal circle encompassing the community/organisational circle, and both these circles encompassing the individual circle.

**Tertiary prevention** (or intervention) is action that aims to reduce the effects of violence against women once it has occurred, and to prevent its reoccurrence or escalation. It includes support and treatment to women and their children who are affected by violence and programs and interventions to men who use violence against them.

**Violence against women**, as defined by the United Nations in its *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women*, is ‘any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.’