

Requests of the Special Rapporteur for Violence against women, its causes and consequences, for information on the prevention of femicide or gender-related killings

Response of the Government of Australia

Request for information on gender-related killings

(a) The existence of, or progress in, the creation of a national femicide watch and/or observatory on violence against women.

Australia has a number of official sources of statistics on violence against women. The two key data collections for tracking femicide are the National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) database managed by the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) and *Recorded Crime – Victims* series maintained by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

The ABS *Recorded Crime - Victims* consists of data collected from administrative systems maintained by state and territory police agencies and compiled according to the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS). The Family and Domestic Violence (FDV) related statistics include victims of all age groups and are not limited to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).

The AIC NHMP includes data collected from all state and territory police services regarding murders and manslaughters in each jurisdiction (excluding culpable driving causing death), as well as information collected from the National Coronial Information System (NCIS).

Within the NHMP, domestic/family homicides are sub-classified against five relationship categories. These are:

- Intimate partner—victim and offender are current or former partners (married, de-facto, boy/girlfriend);
- Filicide—victim is the child of the offender;
- Parricide—victim is the parent of the offender;
- Siblicide—victim and offender are brother/s or sister/s; and
- Other family—including nieces, uncles, cousins, grandparents.

Categories two through four include biological, adoptive and step relatives.

As well as the aforementioned administrative data collections, the Australian Death Review Network (ADRN) has also reported on IPV homicides between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2014. The ARDN have specialist expertise in domestic and family violence related issues and access to extensive information by virtue of their specialist review mechanisms and location in Coroners Courts, Ombudsman's offices and government agencies. Many also have the capacity to call for additional information or records as required.

The extensive data sources available to the ADRN allow for a more detailed analysis of family/domestic homicides. They have been able to establish that many female IPV homicide perpetrators have also been victims of DV, and that almost half of the males, who killed a former female partner, killed that partner within three months of the relationship ending. The in-depth ADRN examination of IPV homicides supplements the administrative data collections by painting a more nuanced picture of the circumstances surrounding IPV homicide.

Australia does not have a real-time national toll for femicide, nor any plans to establish one. Preparing reliable femicide statistics is a lengthy process due to lag in reporting, ongoing revision and inconsistent definitions of homicide, degree, culpability, and intent across Australian states and territories. Determining the relationship between victims and perpetrators is not straightforward, and attributing a death to homicide may be subject to lengthy court proceedings. Therefore, reporting real-time, raw data are unlikely to provide a complete picture of femicide in Australia.

(b) Administrative data on gender-related killings of women for the last three years (2016-2019), disaggregated as follows:

- i. The number of intimate partner killings (i.e. based on the relationship between the victim and perpetrator, the number of women killed by their partners/ex-partners, husband/ex-husband etc.)*

Data on the total number of intimate partner killings for the last three years are not publicly available. However, according to the AIC’s NHMP on average, one woman was killed every nine days and one man every 29 days by a partner between July 2014 and June 2016 (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story 2019). Available data for selected jurisdictions from the ABS’ *Recorded Crime – Victims* series are presented below.

Year	Number of victims (all ages, both sexes) killed by an intimate partner (in NSW, SA, QLD and VIC)
2016	71
2017	54
2018	52

- ii. *The number of killings by family members or other killings by unrelated persons but gender-related or with a sexual motive.*

Data on the total number of killings by family members or other killings by unrelated persons with a gender-related or sexual motive are not publicly available. Available data on the number of victims killed by family member (excluding intimate partners) from the ABS' Recorded Crime – Victims series are presented below.

Year	Number of victims (all ages, both sexes) killed by a family member other than an intimate partner (in NSW, SA, QLD and VIC)
2016	56
2017	51
2018	40

- iii. *Other femicides.*

Publicly available data on the number of family and domestic violence related murders from the ABS' Recorded Crime – Victims series are presented below.

	Males	Females	Total
2016	43	52	95
2017	35	44	79
2018	39	54	93

- iv. *Homicide Victims*

For comparison, publicly available data on the total number of homicides from the ABS' Recorded Crime – Victims series are presented below.

Year	Number of homicide victims (all ages, both sexes) in Australia
2016	227
2017	210
2018	222

Request for additional information

(a) Number of killings of children, disaggregated by sex, in the context of gender-related violence against women:

According to the AIC's NHMP, from July 2012 to June 2014, 42 children aged 17 years and younger were killed in Australia. These children represent 8 per cent of all homicide victims.

- Of these, 26 were victims of filicide (killed by their custodial or non-custodial parent).
 - The relationship for the killers of the other 16 children was not recorded. These killers could include siblings, other family members, acquaintances or strangers.
- Fourteen of the 26 children who died through filicide were under one year of age.

From July 2002 to June 2012, 358 children aged 17 years and younger were killed in Australia. These children represent 13 per cent of all homicide victims (Research in Practice No. 38 - Domestic/family homicide in Australia, AIC).

- Of these, 258 were killed by a family member. These represent 22 per cent of all family and domestic violence-related deaths in that period. The remaining 100 children were killed by a stranger.
- Of the 258 killed by a family member, 229 were victims of filicide, six were victims of siblicide, and 10 were killed by another family member. The remaining 13 were killed by their intimate partner.

(b) Number of suicides by women and men, as a result of gender based violence (including domestic violence and abuse, forced marriage etc.)

The ABS *Causes of Death* data collection tracks the number of suicides in Australia per calendar year. However, it does not contain information on whether gender-based violence is a contributor.