

# VOICE AGAINST VIOLENCE



2018

Research Report

Report prepared for the National Rugby League (NRL)

SWINBURNE BUSINESS SCHOOL

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# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Program Background and Aim

The NRL's Voice Against Violence (VAV) program began as a partnership between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the US Embassy, the Family Sexual Violence Action Committee, the Papua New Guinea Rugby Football League (PNGRFL), and the NRL.

## 1.2 Program Aim

Developed in consultation with expert partners in domestic violence cases, the VAV program is aimed at informing and empowering young men and women (aged 16 years or older) in particular to stand up, speak out and take action against domestic violence. Specifically, the program looks to:

- Change attitudes and behaviours regarding domestic and gender-based violence of men and women;
- Educate and engage young men and women via program activities;
- Encourage individual behaviour change;
- Foster and encourage role models that promote healthy behaviours and gender equality; and
- Promote messaging around the prevention of violence.

## 1.3 Report Outline

This report has been organised in the following way:

- Section 2.0 briefly outlines the method undertaken to capture data for this review; and
- Section 3.0 presents key findings related to program progress and outcomes.

## **2.0 METHOD**

### **2.1 Research Aims**

The aim of this project was to undertake a research evaluation of the VAV program in Papua New Guinea (PNG) to explore its achievements, challenges, and emerging outcomes.

### **2.2 Data Collection**

Data collection occurred via surveys which adopted quantitative measures. These surveys were implemented with VAV workshop participants over the course of 2018. Pre-workshop surveys were used to collect demographic data and understand baseline attitudes towards domestic and gender-based violence of men and women. Post-workshop surveys were used to examine potential changes in these attitudes and workshop outcomes.

### **2.3 Data Analysis**

Microsoft Excel spreadsheets were used to organise and analyse the data. The data analysis process was enhanced via the application of a broad theoretical framework. Specifically, sport management, sport development and community development concepts and theory were used to help the researchers understand the data collected for this report.

## 3.0 RESULTS

### 3.1 Demographics

Overall, surveys were implemented with workshop participants on 295 occasions. Within this data set there were a total of 150 pre-workshop and 145 post-workshop surveys that were used to collect data. Survey responses indicated that workshop participants were mostly **male**, representing 89% of the cohort (with the remaining 11% represented by females).

Participants were mostly aged **18-24 years** (59%), followed by those aged 25-29 years (17%), under 18 years (14%), and 30 years or above (10%).

With regard to regional distribution, the majority of participants were from **Papua** (52%), followed by the Highlands (33%), Niugini Islands (13%), and Momase (2%).

Marital statuses were weighted towards those that were **single** or **never married** (75%). Those that were married represented 21% of survey respondents, separated individuals represented 3%, widowed 1%, and no one reported that they were divorced.

When asked about their highest level of education or schooling that they had attained, the majority of participants had **completed grades 11-12** (27%) or **grades 9-10** (26%), followed by those that had completed grades 7-8 (12%), college (business/secretary- 11%), technical school (10%), grades 1-6 (5%), tertiary university (4%), no schooling (2%), and pre-school (1%).

## 3.2 Pre-Workshop versus Post-Workshop Findings

Surveys were designed and implemented with the aim of examining potentials shifts between pre- and post-workshop attitudes towards domestic and gender-based violence. Consequently, the following findings have been presented in a manner that compares data from each question prior to and after the completion of workshops. Please note, not all respondents answered all questions, as such, there are some percentage discrepancies. Furthermore, pre- and post-workshop surveys were implemented within the same calendar year.

### 3.2.1 Attitudes towards Women

The following statements about women were presented to survey respondents. Participants were asked to share their opinion on these statements by indicating whether they “Strongly agreed”, “Mildly agreed”, “Neither agreed nor disagreed”, “Mildly disagreed”, or “Strongly disagreed”.

Overall, findings indicated that attitudes towards women had improved following participation in VAV workshops. For instance, respondents were asked whether a man had **the right to control his partner if he has paid his bride price**. Responses shifted from 41% strongly agreeing to 50% strongly disagreeing. In addition, when asked **whether men should be in charge of the relationship**, the majority of participants (39%) initially selected “Strongly agree” before the VAV workshop. This majority then shifted to select “Strongly disagree” after participating in VAV. Further insights into the results have been provided in the tables below.

***“A woman in a relationship must always obey her partner, in order to keep peace in the home.”***

Pre-workshop results				
<b>Strongly agree</b>	Mildly agree	Neither agree or disagree	Mildly disagree	Strongly disagree
<b>49%</b>	33%	10%	3%	5%
Post-workshop results				
<b>Strongly agree</b>	Mildly agree	Neither agree or disagree	Mildly disagree	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>28%</b>	14%	10%	17%	<b>28%</b>

***“Once a man pays his bride price, he has the right to control his partner.”***

Pre-workshop results				
<b>Strongly agree</b>	Mildly agree	Neither agree or disagree	Mildly disagree	Strongly disagree
<b>41%</b>	30%	13%	5%	10%
Post-workshop results				
Strongly agree	Mildly agree	Neither agree or disagree	Mildly disagree	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
9%	7%	9%	23%	<b>50%</b>

***“Men should be in charge of the relationship.”***

Pre-workshop results				
<b>Strongly agree</b>	Mildly agree	Neither agree or disagree	Mildly disagree	Strongly disagree
<b>39%</b>	33%	11%	9%	8%
Post-workshop results				
Strongly agree	Mildly agree	Neither agree or disagree	Mildly disagree	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
12%	10%	10%	21%	<b>45%</b>

***“A man is the one who decides when to have sex with his partner.”***

Pre-workshop results				
Strongly agree	<b>Mildly agree</b>	Neither agree or disagree	Mildly disagree	Strongly disagree
27%	<b>31%</b>	17%	7%	19%
Post-workshop results				
Strongly agree	Mildly agree	Neither agree or disagree	Mildly disagree	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
5%	9%	10%	14%	<b>60%</b>

### 3.2.2 Attitudes towards Domestic Violence

Surveys also presented the following questions about domestic violence. Participants were asked to respond by selecting “Yes” or “No”. Unlike results from the previous section, there were fewer shifts in attitude as **the majority of participants agreed that violence against women is a serious issue in PNG** (98% pre-workshop and 96% post-workshop) and **agreed on what constitutes domestic violence** (e.g. slapping or pushing, 90% pre-workshop and 94% post-workshop).

However, there were responses two questions that were exceptions to the trend, as they indicated shifts in attitude. These included **“Is it OK for a partner to monitor the text messages and call records of the other partner?”** and **“Is it OK for a man to hit his partner if she flirts with another man?”**. With regard to monitoring text messages, responses demonstrated a relatively even split prior to taking part in a VAV workshop, with 49% of respondents selecting “Yes” and 48% selecting “No”. Following participation in VAV, survey results demonstrated a strong shift in attitude with 85% of respondents selecting “No. Similarly, when asked **is it ok for a man to hit his partner if she flirts with another man**, preliminary results indicated and even split between “Yes” (47%) and “No” (51%), before heavily shifting towards “No” (89%).

#### ***“Is violence against women a serious issue among youths in PNG?”***

Pre-workshop results	
<b>Yes</b>	No
<b>98%</b>	2%
Post-workshop results	
<b>Yes</b>	No
<b>96%</b>	2%

#### ***“Is it OK if one partner in a relationship repeatedly criticizes the other one to make them feel bad or useless?”***

Pre-workshop results	
Yes	<b>No</b>
14%	<b>86%</b>
Post-workshop results	
Yes	<b>No</b>
3%	<b>94%</b>

***“Is it OK to slap or push your partner?”***

Pre-workshop results	
Yes	<b>No</b>
9%	<b>90%</b>
Post-workshop results	
Yes	<b>No</b>
4%	<b>94%</b>

***“If one partner in a relationship repeatedly criticizes the other one to make them feel bad or useless, is this a form of domestic violence?”***

Pre-workshop results	
<b>Yes</b>	No
<b>79%</b>	20%
Post-workshop results	
<b>Yes</b>	No
<b>91%</b>	6%

***“Is slapping or pushing your partner to cause harm or fear a form of domestic violence?”***

Pre-workshop results	
<b>Yes</b>	No
<b>80%</b>	19%
Post-workshop results	
<b>Yes</b>	No
<b>90%</b>	8%

***“If one partner in a relationship tries to control the other partner by preventing them from seeing family and friends, is this a form of domestic violence?”***

Pre-workshop results	
<b>Yes</b>	No
<b>77%</b>	16%
Post-workshop results	
<b>Yes</b>	No
<b>92%</b>	5%

***“If one partner in a relationship forces the other partner to have sex, is this a form of domestic violence?”***

Pre-workshop results	
<b>Yes</b>	No
<b>83%</b>	16%
Post-workshop results	
<b>Yes</b>	No
<b>92%</b>	6%

***“Is it OK for a partner to monitor the text messages and call records of the other partner?”***

Pre-workshop results	
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>49%</b>	<b>48%</b>
Post-workshop results	
Yes	<b>No</b>
13%	<b>85%</b>

***“Is it OK for a man to hit his partner if she argues with him?”***

Pre-workshop results	
Yes	<b>No</b>
18%	<b>81%</b>
Post-workshop results	
Yes	<b>No</b>
4%	<b>93%</b>

***“Is it OK for a man to hit his partner if she flirts with another man?”***

Pre-workshop results	
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>47%</b>	<b>51%</b>
Post-workshop results	
Yes	<b>No</b>
8%	<b>89%</b>

***“Is it OK for a man to hit his partner if she refuses to have sex with him?”***

Pre-workshop results	
Yes	<b>No</b>
10%	<b>89%</b>
Post-workshop results	
Yes	<b>No</b>
3%	<b>95%</b>

Participants were also asked to consider a number of statements about domestic violence scenarios and to respond whether they “Strongly agreed”, “Mildly agreed”, “Neither agreed nor disagreed”, “Mildly disagreed”, or “Strongly disagreed”. In this instance, results indicated that the VAV workshop had promoted positive changes in attitudes towards domestic violence. For example, when asked if **“domestic violence can be accepted if the violent person apologizes and genuinely feels bad for what they have done”** 71% of participants selected “Strongly agree” or “Mildly agree” prior to taking part in the VAV workshop. However, after participating in VAV workshops, the majority of participants (58%) changed their response and selected “Mildly disagree” or “Strongly agree”. The following tables provide further details of participant responses.

***“If one partner in a domestic relationship earns more money than the other partner, they have the right to control the money and make decisions on how it is used or spent.”***

Pre-workshop results				
<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Mildly agree</b>	Neither agree or disagree	Mildly disagree	Strongly disagree
<b>43%</b>	<b>36%</b>	7%	5%	7%
Post-workshop results				
Strongly agree	Mildly agree	Neither agree or disagree	Mildly disagree	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
18%	21%	7%	14%	<b>37%</b>

***“Domestic violence can be accepted if the violent person apologizes and genuinely feels bad for what they have done.”***

Pre-workshop results				
<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Mildly agree</b>	Neither agree or disagree	Mildly disagree	Strongly disagree
<b>41%</b>	<b>30%</b>	13%	4%	9%
Post-workshop results				
Strongly agree	Mildly agree	Neither agree or disagree	<b>Mildly disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
17%	12%	12%	<b>21%</b>	<b>37%</b>

***“When a woman is raped, she usually did something careless to put herself in that situation.”***

Pre-workshop results				
<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Mildly agree</b>	Neither agree or disagree	Mildly disagree	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>23%</b>	<b>23%</b>	16%	9%	<b>27%</b>
Post-workshop results				
Strongly agree	Mildly agree	Neither agree or disagree	Mildly disagree	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
8%	8%	5%	6%	<b>70%</b>

### 3.2.3 Responses toward Domestic Violence Scenarios

In addition to these questions about domestic violence, participants were also asked how they would respond in certain scenarios. While findings did not indicate a significant shift in attitude toward either scenario, findings were remained positive, as responses participants indicated that they would respond in a reasonable manner in both scenarios. For instance, when asked about **what they would if they learnt that a friend had been mistreated or is mistreating a girl or woman**, the majority of pre- and post- workshop participants selected “Talk to him about the proper way to treat his girl” (77% and 80% respectively).

***“Assume that a friend of yours has been raped or sexually abused, now or in the past, what do you recommend? Where should she go?”***

Pre-workshop results							
Police	Doctor	Women’s shelter	Relative, friend, colleague, family	Lawyer	Counselling service for women/families	Pastor or church elder	I don’t know
<b>59%</b>	<b>16%</b>	9%	<1%	<1%	11%	<1%	<1%
Post-workshop results							
Police	Doctor	Women’s shelter	Relative, friend, colleague, family	Lawyer	<b>Counselling service for women/families</b>	Pastor or church elder	I don’t know
<b>66%</b>	8%	6%	3%	0%	<b>12%</b>	2%	<1%

***“What would you do if you became aware that a friend of yours has mistreated or is mistreating the girl or woman he is with?”***

Pre-workshop results					
Do nothing, it isn’t my problem	I would end my relationship with him	I would tell somebody who could punish him	I would confront him	<b>Talk to him about the proper way to treat his girl</b>	I don’t know
5%	7%	1%	5%	<b>77%</b>	2%
Post-workshop results					
Do nothing, it isn’t my problem	I would end my relationship with him	I would tell somebody who could punish him	I would confront him	<b>Talk to him about the proper way to treat his girl</b>	I don’t know
2%	3%	8%	<1%	<b>80%</b>	3%

### 3.3 Conclusion

Overall, survey results indicated that VAV workshops have promoted positive educational outcomes and changes in attitude towards women and domestic violence. Further, the majority of participants indicated that VAV had helped them to develop **a better understanding of how violence can be prevented** (87%), and **enhanced awareness of where they can go to for help and additional resources** (82%). While this research has indicated that VAV workshops can generate positive changes in attitudes towards violence against women, further research is required to see if these changes are sustained over time. Additionally, more research is necessary in order to examine whether there are any associated behavioural changes that result from these shifts in attitude.

***"I have a better understanding of how domestic violence can be prevented."***

<b>Strongly agree</b>	Mildly agree	Neither agree or disagree	Mildly disagree	Strongly disagree
<b>87%</b>	12%	<1%	0%	<1%

***"I have a better understanding about where to go for help and additional resources."***

<b>Strongly agree</b>	Mildly agree	Neither agree or disagree	Mildly disagree	Strongly disagree
<b>82%</b>	15%	2%	0%	<1%