



Intimate partner abuse of women in Queensland

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By

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Cover design: Featuring the Cooktown Orchid, the cover of this report was designed by Renette Viljoen. The Cooktown Orchid was declared Queensland's floral emblem in November 1959, following a public poll to select a floral emblem in preparation for Queensland's Centenary. The orchid's beautiful, fragile appearance belies its strength and resilience in spite of the often harsh environment in which it lives.

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Executive summary

Intimate partner violence, also referred to as intimate partner abuse, includes all types of physical and non-physical violence and acts of abuse between intimate partners. This study focuses on intimate partner abuse among cohabiting, heterosexual partners living in the state of Queensland. Specifically, the study is concerned with the abuse of women by their current marriage or de facto male partners. Due to the particular geographic, economic and cultural characteristics of parts of Queensland many families are affected by atypical work schedules, periodic separation and isolation. Each of these may be expected to impact on the quality of relationships and, potentially, on the experience of intimate partner abuse.

1. Objectives of the study

The key objectives of the study on intimate partner abuse in Queensland were to:

- ascertain the prevalence and the nature of male-to-female intimate partner abuse in Queensland
- identify associations between a variety of socio-demographic and behavioural variables, and physical and non-physical male-to-female partner abuse, and
- identify any impact of the experience of abuse on women's health status.

The study also sought information about the reasons women continued in abusive relationships and sought to identify if women were aware of counselling and support services within their locality, if they had used such services and if not, why not.

2. Methods

The total sample comprised 1,864 women over the age of 18 years and living in an intimate, heterosexual (spousal) relationship in the state of Queensland. A stratification strategy was employed to ensure a minimum of 400 women in each of four geographical regions: North Queensland, Central Queensland, South Queensland and South East Queensland. In order to combine the samples for a proportional state-wide sample, weighting was necessary and resulted in a weighted sample of 1,857.

The women were surveyed by telephone in June and July, 2009. The interview schedule comprised two sets of ten questions concerning acts of physical and non-physical abuse by current partners, as well as a range of variables concerning the socio-demographic and behavioural characteristics of women and their partners, and the status of the women's health and their help seeking.

In relation to physical abuse, the women were asked whether they had been abused: first at anytime during the current relationship; and, if so, whether the abuse had occurred during the previous 12 months. Physical abuse was differentiated into two categories including sexual abuse (forced into unwanted sexual activity); and all physical abuse (including hitting, kicking, beating, choking and threatening with a weapon such as a gun or knife plus threatening to hit with a fist or anything, throwing things, slapping and pushing). Similarly,

the ten questions on the prevalence of non-physical abuse were further classified into psychological, social-psychological and economic abuse.

3. Key findings

3.1 Experience of abuse

3.1.1 Physical abuse

Physical, including sexual, abuse of women by their spousal partner had occurred at some time in 13.1% of current relationships (11.6% of the women experienced physical abuse and 1.5% experienced sexual abuse). Such abuse had occurred in the previous 12 months for 7.7% of the women in the sample.

3.1.2 Non-physical abuse

At some stage of the current intimate relationship, 33% of women had experienced at least one form of non-physical abuse; 25.2% of the women had experienced psychological abuse, 18.5% had experienced social-psychological abuse, and 5.4% of the women had experienced economic abuse.

3.1.3 Correlates of abuse

A range of socio-demographic and behavioural variables were analysed for their association with the reporting of abuse. While it is not possible to determine the direction of causality in these relationships, they suggest nevertheless a number of potential risk factors associated with the experience of abuse. Specifically:

Physical abuse (all forms)

A woman's likelihood of having experienced any form of physical abuse at some point in the current relationship increased by a factor of:

- 2.3 if the relationship was de facto;
- 4.1 if the relationship was less than five years old;
- 3.2 if she was aged less than 30 years;
- 1.4 if her partner had a low level education;
- 2.7 if her partner smoked; and
- 1.8 if her partner drank at a risky level.

Physical abuse within last 12 months

A woman's likelihood of having experienced any form of physical abuse during the last 12 months increased by a factor of:

- 4.6 if her partner smoked;

Non-physical abuse (all forms)

A woman's likelihood of having experienced some form of non-physical abuse at some point in the relationship increased by a factor of:

- 1.5 if she was aged less than 30 years; and
- 2.7 if she was solely or mostly responsible for childcare tasks.

Social-psychological abuse

A woman's likelihood of having experienced social-psychological abuse at some point in the current relationship increased by a factor of:

- 1.9 if the relationship was de facto;
- 2.1 if she had spent less than five years in the relationship when compared with women who had spent over fifteen years in the relationship;
- 2.4 if she was aged less than 30 years;
- 1.6 if her partner worked in the mining industry;
- 1.9 if her partner had a low level education;
- 2.1 if her partner smoked; and
- 1.5 if her partner drank at a risky level.

Psychological abuse

A woman's likelihood of having experienced psychological abuse at some point in the relationship increased by a factor of:

- 1.3 if her partner had a low level education; and
- 2.4 if she was solely or mostly responsible for childcare tasks.

Economic abuse

A woman's likelihood of having experienced economic abuse at some point in the relationship increased by a factor of:

- 1.2 if she was a smoker;
- 1.8 if her partner drank at a risky level.

3.2 Reasons for continuing with the abusive relationship

Women who had been abused by their current partners remained in the relationship mostly because:

- they still loved their partner (64.2%)
- they wanted to give their relationship another try (66.8%)
- they had resolved problems with their partners (58.7%)
- for the sake of the children (50.0%), and
- the partner had promised to change (24.8%).

3.3 Mental health of women in abusive relationships

There was a strong association between the experience of abuse and indications of negative mental health outcomes. Specifically, women who reported:

- physical abuse at any stage of their current relationship were 7.3 times more likely to show evidence of severe psychological symptomatology and 2.9 times more likely to show evidence of depression;
- physical abuse in the last 12 months were 21 times more likely to show evidence of severe psychological symptomatology and 4.2 times more likely to show evidence of depression;
- sexual abuse from their current partner were 17.5 times more likely to show evidence of severe psychological symptomatology and 6.1 times more likely to show evidence of depression;
- economic abuse from their current partner were 6.9 times more likely to show evidence of severe psychological symptomatology and 3.0 times more likely to show evidence of depression;
- psychological abuse from their partner were 5.3 times more likely to show evidence of severe psychological symptomatology and 2.8 times more likely to show evidence of depression;
- social-psychological abuse from their current partner were 5.0 times more likely to show evidence of severe psychological symptomatology and 2.1 times more likely to show evidence of depression; and
- any form of non-physical abuse from their partner were 4.9 times more likely to show evidence of severe psychological symptomatology and 2.8 times more likely to show evidence of depression.

3.4 Help seeking among women who experienced abuse

Over 60% of the women who had been physically abused, and who knew of support services available, did not seek help from a support service. Similarly, over 70% of the women who had experienced non-physical abuse, and who knew of support services available, did not seek help from a support service. In most cases, where known, the women in these circumstances felt they did not need the services because they were able to get the support they required from friends, family or other service providers, such as a doctor or psychologist.

4. Conclusion

The results of this research is highly consistent with the results of the earlier research conducted in the Bowen Basin and Mackay region of Central Queensland, and broadly similar to the results of the Australian component of the International Violence against Women Survey. Various forms of both physical and non-physical abuse were significantly correlated with a range of socio-economic and behavioural factors and with poor mental health. While a substantial majority of the abused women had considered leaving the abusive relationship they were motivated, mainly by love for their partners and commitment to the relationship, to continue. The majority of the abused women felt that the support of family, friends or their doctor was all they needed and only one-fifth to a quarter of those who knew about specialist services sought help from them.

Primary prevention initiatives, as well as early intervention targeted to particularly vulnerable groups, are needed as well as increased access to information for friends and families and specialised training for a range of professionals.

Chapter 1: Background

1.1 Introduction

On the 15th February 2011, the Federal Minister for Women, Kate Ellis, and the Attorney-General, Robert McClelland, launched *Safe and free from violence: The National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children* (the “National Plan”). The scope of the National Plan is focused on domestic and family violence and sexual assault (which occurs within domestic and family violence as well as in other contexts). Within the National Plan, domestic violence is defined as follows:

“Domestic violence refers to acts of violence that occur between people who have, or have had, an intimate relationship ... the central element of domestic violence is an ongoing pattern of behaviour aimed at controlling a partner through fear, for example by using behaviour which is violent and threatening. In most cases, the violent behaviour is part of a range of tactics to exercise power and control over women and their children, and can be both criminal and non-criminal. Domestic violence includes physical, sexual, emotional and psychological abuse” (Council of Australian Governments 2011 p. 3).

Thus, the reference to ‘domestic violence’ in the National Plan can be used interchangeably with ‘intimate partner abuse’.

The National Plan is built upon the work of the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (the Council) represented in *Time for Action*⁶ and commissioned by the Australian Government to provide a blue print for the nation’s efforts to reduce violence against women and their children. *Time for Action* followed at least three decades of feminist advocacy for an end to violence against women, resulting in significant developments in service delivery, public policy and legislation in every Australian jurisdiction. Despite these achievements, the 2005 Personal Safety Survey (ABS 2006) found that for Australian women aged 15 years or more, one in three had experienced physical violence, almost one in five women experienced sexual violence; and almost one in six Australian women had experienced violence perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner.

The first of its kind in Australia,⁷ the National Plan has numerous unique features;⁸ foremost among them is the commitment to primary prevention of violence against women through broad-based cultural change to prevent it occurring in the first place, whereas previous national efforts have focused on responding to acts of violence to prevent it happening again (secondary prevention). The National Plan also addresses the need to improve service delivery and justice responses for women subjected to sexual, domestic violence and family

⁶ National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (2009) *Time for Action: The National Council’s Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2009-2021*. Commonwealth of Australia

⁷ The National Committee on Violence against Women presented its report to then Prime Minister Paul Keating in 1992, but it was never endorsed as a national plan through the Council of Australia Governments.

⁸ See Nancarrow 2010 for a detailed discussion of the National Plan, including its defining features.

violence, and emphasises the need to hold perpetrators of violence accountable for their actions.

The National Plan provides a framework for national action over the next 12 years (2010 – 2022) to be implemented through a series of four consecutive three-year action plans aimed at a significant reduction in the incidence of violence against women. Each Australian State and Territory is required to develop jurisdictional level action plans within the strategic framework and implementation schema of the National Plan.

As indicated above, national studies on the prevalence of violence against women have been conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (1996, 2006), as well as the Australian component of the international violence against women survey, conducted by Mouzos and Makkai (2004) for the Australian Institute of Criminology. However, prior to the research reported here, research on the nature and prevalence of intimate partner abuse in the Bowen Basin and Mackay region of Central Queensland (Nancarrow et al, 2008; Nancarrow et al, 2009; Lockie et al 2010; Lockie et al 2011) was the only study of its kind conducted in Queensland. It found that 11.5% of the women surveyed had been physically abused by their current partner and nearly one-third (31.4%) had suffered non-physical abuse by their intimate partners.

This present study replicates, and expands, the research conducted in the Bowen Basin and Mackay region of Central Queensland (Nancarrow et al, 2009). It provides a benchmark on the nature and prevalence of intimate partner abuse in Queensland, assisting the Queensland Government to monitor and target resources for the prevention and amelioration of the effects of intimate partner abuse and, in particular, to monitor “a reduction in the occurrence of domestic violence over time” (Queensland Government, 2009, p.12). Also, to better understand the risk factors for intimate partner abuse and the impact on women’s health and wellbeing, the study examines the associations between women’s experiences of intimate partner abuse and a range of demographic, relational and behavioural characteristics, as well as women’s use of specialist domestic violence services.

1.2 Prevalence and nature of intimate partner abuse

Different forms of violence perpetrated by males against their female partners are generally conceptualised as part of a continuum, beginning with the establishment of power and control through emotional and psychological abuse tactics. Uninterrupted patterns of power and control are likely to escalate to sexual and other physical abuse and domestic homicide represents the extreme end of the continuum. In a study of intimate partner homicide, all of the male perpetrators had a history of using violence to control their female partners prior to the homicide (Websdale, 1999).

At a national level, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has conducted two studies on the nature and prevalence of personal violence (the Women’s Safety Survey in 1996 and the Personal Safety Survey in 2005) and the Australian Institute of Criminology conducted the Australian component of the International Violence against Women Survey (2004). The Women’s Safety Survey found that domestic violence accounted for 47% of all male violence against women, and that almost one in five Australian women had, at some time since they

were 15 years of age, been physically or sexually abused by a male with whom they had a current or former relationship (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1996). The Women's Safety Survey also found that for the 12 month period prior to the survey, 4.6% of Australian women aged 18 years and over had experienced some form of violence perpetrated on them by a male with whom they had a current or past intimate partner relationship. These experiences included assault (including sexual assault) or threatened assault, emotional abuse, and being stalked (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1996). The 2005 Personal Safety Survey found that since the age of 15, approximately 17% of women had been physically or sexually abused by a partner from a current or former relationship (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006). In the International Violence Against Women Survey, approximately one in ten Australian women with current or former male partners experienced intimate partner abuse during the five years preceding the survey and just under five per cent during the preceding 12 months (Mouzos and Makkai, 2004).

1.3 Impact of intimate partner abuse on women's health

Intimate partner abuse has both immediate and long-term effects on women's health and wellbeing, including fatal and non-fatal outcomes. In Australia, 22% of homicide incidents in 2006-07 were intimate partner homicides, with three-quarters of the victims being female (Dearden and Jones, 2009). In a study of femicide (killing of women) in Australia between 1989 and 1998, Mouzos (1999) found that nearly three in five of all femicides occur between intimate partners and nearly all of these are as a result of a domestic altercation. Suicide is another fatal outcome of intimate partner abuse for women (Campbell, 2002).

Non-fatal outcomes resulting from intimate partner abuse include the direct short-term and long-term effects of physical violence such as immediate injuries, chronic pain and disability (Plichta, 2004). Women who suffer sexual violence are at increased risk of gynaecological injuries, sexually transmitted diseases, urinary tract infection and unintended pregnancy (Plichta, 2004). Numerous studies have also shown the indirect effects of intimate partner abuse which include a wide range of physical and mental health problems. Abused women are more likely to report more physical symptoms of poor health, chronic pain, gastrointestinal and gynaecological disorders, and adverse reproductive and pregnancy outcomes than non-abused women (Campbell, 2002; Plichta, 2004). The long-term effects of abuse on women's mental health is also profound with an increased risk of psychiatric problems including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and suicidal thoughts (Campbell, 2002; The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health, 2005; Ellsberg et al, 2008). Women who have experienced intimate partner abuse are also more likely to smoke, drink alcohol and use drugs than are non-abused women (Plichta, 2004).

In the Central Queensland study of intimate partner abuse, women who had suffered some form of physical abuse at any stage of their current relationship were 4.4 times more likely to show evidence of severe psychological symptomatology and 3.7 times more likely to show evidence of depression than non-abused women (Nancarrow et al, 2009). Women who suffered any form of non-physical abuse were 5.2 times more likely to show evidence of severe psychological symptomatology and 3.6 times more likely to show evidence of depression than those who weren't abused (Nancarrow et al, 2009).

From a study conducted in the state of Victoria, intimate partner abuse was found to be the leading contributor to the death, disability and illness in Victorian women aged 15-44, contributing 9% of the total disease burden among these women and 3% among all Victorian women (VicHealth, 2004). The greatest proportion of the disease burden was associated with mental health problems including depression (33%) and anxiety (26%). Suicide (13%), drug use (6%), risky levels of alcohol consumption (6%) and smoking (10%) were also significant contributors to the disease burden of intimate partner violence.

1.4 Factors associated with causes of intimate partner abuse

The factors associated with intimate partner abuse are complex and multi-faceted. The ecological model proposed by the World Health Organisation (WHO, 2002) for understanding and responding to violence is supported by the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (2009b), and provides a multi-dimensional framework for effective responses to it (VicHealth, 2007). The ecological model highlights the interaction between individual (biological and personal history); relationship (family, peers, intimate partners); community (schools, workplaces, neighbourhoods) and societal (economic and social structures, gender inequality, religious and cultural beliefs, social norms) factors that contribute to vulnerability to intimate partner abuse victimisation or perpetration (WHO 2002).

Most studies that have examined risk factors for intimate partner abuse have focused on socio-demographic factors. Age has been found to be the strongest predictor of increased risk, with younger women disproportionately abused by their partners compared with older women (Lauritsen and White, 2001; Mouzos and Makkai, 2004; Garcia-Moreno et al, 2008; Nancarrow et al, 2009). Women who are divorced or separated report the highest levels of abuse compared to any other marital status group, and those who are in a de facto relationship are more likely to report abuse than are married women (Mouzos and Makkai, 2004; Garcia-Moreno et al, 2008; Nancarrow et al, 2009). While some studies have found associations between low educational status and low income levels with an increased risk of overall intimate partner abuse (Garcia-Moreno et al, 2008), others have not (Mouzos and Makkai, 2004; Nancarrow et al, 2009). In the Central Queensland study of intimate partner abuse, women's educational level had no bearing on reported abuse, however, a lower educational level of the partner was associated with higher levels of physical and non-physical abuse (Nancarrow et al, 2009). Few significant relationships were found between women's or men's employment status and experience of abuse (Nancarrow et al, 2009).

While a number of socio-demographic factors have been found to increase the risk of intimate partner abuse against women, it has been suggested that the characteristics of the male partner are more important in determining risk (Mouzos and Makkai, 2004). In the Australian component of the International Violence against Women Survey, Mouzos and Makkai (2004) found that the strongest risk factors for intimate partner abuse were associated with the male's behaviour, including level of alcohol consumption, general levels of aggression and controlling behaviour. The Central Queensland study of intimate partner abuse found higher levels of physical and non-physical abuse among women whose partners either smoked, drank alcohol at risky levels or consumed marijuana/cannabis at least twice a month (Nancarrow et al, 2009).

Women who stay in abusive relationships do so for a number of reasons. In the Central Queensland study, the most influential reasons were the desire to give the relationship another try, love for the partner, the resolution of problems, concern for the children and the promise by the abusive partner to change (Nancarrow et al, 2008). Other reasons included feeling that the abuse was not serious enough to warrant leaving, having nowhere to go, lacking financial security or self-confidence, feeling too ashamed, disruption to family businesses, religious beliefs, the difficulties and stress involved in leaving, changes in partner behaviour, partner's experience of mental illness, length of time in the relationship and threats of violence if the woman did leave (Nancarrow et al, 2009).

1.5 Women's awareness and use of support services

Despite the harmful effects of experiencing abuse, many women do not seek help from formal counselling and support services (ABS, 1996; Keys, Young 1998; Mouzos and Makkai, 2004; Nancarrow et al 2009; Lockie et al, forthcoming). Only a quarter of the women in the Central Queensland study who had been abused, and were aware of counselling or support services in their locality, sought help from those services (Nancarrow et al, 2009). Similarly, Mouzos and Makkai (2004) found that 84% of the women in their study did not contact a specialised agency following their most recent experience of intimate partner abuse. Consistent with findings from other studies (e.g. Keys Young, 1998), women were more likely to talk to someone else about their experiences of abuse, which were most likely friends, neighbours or immediate family members (Mouzos and Makkai, 2004).

Reluctance to seek support from formal agencies may be attributed to a range of factors including a perception that the abuse is normal and insignificant (Fugate et al 2005; Leone et al 2007), fear for own or others' safety and fear of not being believed or treated with respect (Fugate et al, Keys Young 1998, Leone et al 2007), fear that any intervention will result in the loss of the relationship (Keys Young, 1998) and shame or embarrassment (Jury, 2009; Keys Young, 1998). A number of authors (Gondolf et al 1990, Liang et al 2005, Leone et al 2007 and Meyer 2010) report that formal help-seeking is correlated with the severity of abuse and the presence of children in the household, although this is also seen as a deterrent to formal help-seeking (Keys Young 1998, Fugate 2005).

Notes

¹ See for example the definition of "intimate personal relationship" in *Queensland's Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 1989*

Chapter 2: Research objectives and methods

2.1 Objectives of the study

The overall goal of the study was to provide a profile of intimate partner abuse across Queensland that could inform intervention strategies to reduce such abuse and support Queensland's contribution to the implementation of a national strategy to reduce violence against women and their children.⁹ With this goal in mind, and by replicating and expanding on the study of intimate partner abuse in the Bowen Basin and Mackay Region of Central Queensland, this research project had three key objectives:

1. to ascertain the prevalence and the nature of male-to-female partner abuse in Queensland;
2. to identify associations between a variety of socio-demographic and behavioural variables, and physical and non-physical male-to-female partner abuse; and
3. to identify any impact of experience of abuse on women's health status.

The study also sought information on reasons abused women continued in the relationship; and to identify if women were aware of counselling and support services within their locality, if they had used such services and, if not why they had not used services.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Data Collection Method

Of the variety of sources that could be used to gauge the prevalence of intimate partner violence,¹⁰ this study utilised the Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) system operated by Central Queensland University's Population Research Laboratory. CATI allows immediate entry of data from the interviewer's questionnaire screen to the computer database, facilitating the collection of a large sample of data in a relatively short period of time. CATI survey process is also beneficial in the collection of data on highly sensitive topics, such as intimate partner abuse, because it provides privacy and complete anonymity for participants. However, telephone interviews potentially under-sample individuals who do not have access to a landline telephone, do not speak English and/or do not wish to be interviewed on the telephone. A further concern with telephone surveys is the potential risk of participant stress or trauma and exposure to further abuse, should an abusive partner be present or interrupt an interview. These concerns were managed by ensuring that all interviewers were female and trained to: appropriately abort calls when a male answered; ensure that the interviews proceeded only when participants confirmed that they were able to safely respond to questions about domestic violence at that time (or women were given a number to call back if they preferred); advise that some questions would be asked that

⁹ At the time the project was developed and data were collected, one of the authors (Nancarrow) was Deputy-Chair of the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children which produced Time for Action, the blue-print for COAG's National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.

¹⁰ See the ABS information paper at Appendix 1 for a discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of different survey modes for measuring crime victimization.

might be distressing; refer to a domestic violence support service, so that women could access support should they need it; and to check that they could proceed with sensitive questions when that point of the interview was reached. Appendix 1 sets out the risk management process used for the project. There were no adverse effects reported for any participant as a result of participating in the CATI survey on intimate partner abuse in Queensland.

2.2.2 The interview schedule

An interview schedule was used to collect data. The schedule comprised closed-ended questions. To assess abuse, the interview schedule incorporated questions from the:

- Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS2) (Straus 1979). This scale has high reliability and validity. It is the most widely used scale to explore the nature and extent of intimate partner violence (Hegarty & Roberts 1998; Nelson et al. 2004). A set of ten questions from this scale was used in the survey to determine women's experiences of physical and sexual abuse. There are significant and valid concerns about the limitations of the *Conflict Tactics Scale* (CTS) and its variant (CTS2). They do not encompass non-physical acts of intimate partner violence, nor do they contextualise the perpetration of violent acts in terms of motivation for, and impact of the violence. As a result, these scales have previously been used inappropriately to argue gender symmetry in intimate partner violence. This study, however, does not involve any comparison of acts of violence against men and women. Further, the study utilises another established data collection instrument to facilitate the collection of data on non-physical abuse, to address the inadequacies of the CTS and CTS2 in measuring intimate partner abuse.
- General Social Survey on Victimization, Canada (Johnson & Bunge 2001). From this survey, a set of ten questions was prepared to measure the non-physical abuse of women. These questions were further classified into economic, psychological and social-psychological abuse. Further details are provided in Chapter 3.

These questions on physical, sexual and non-physical abuse were also used in the survey conducted by the AIC for the Australian component of the International Violence Against Women Survey (Mouzos & Makkai 2004). The interview schedule for the Bowen Basin study (Nancarrow et al 2009) and therefore, the present study, also included the SF-12 Health Survey (Ware et al. 1996, 1998) and two questions related to awareness, and use of counselling and support services. The present study also included questions about cultural identity, whether the person had ever experienced abuse by a previous partner (as well as being asked about experience of abuse by a current partner) and, for those women who acknowledged intimate partner abuse and knew about specialist support services but did not use them, why they had not used such services. The interview schedule is provided at Appendix 2.

2.2.3 Sampling design

The state of Queensland was defined as the survey sample area. In order to provide geographical representation, and using the most current Australian Bureau of Statistics population figures, the sample was proportionally divided into the following areas:

1. Central Queensland (CQ), consisting of Mackay, Fitzroy and Central West statistical divisions.
2. North Queensland (NQ), consisting of Far North, North West and Northern statistical divisions.
3. South Queensland (SQ), consisting of Wide Bay Burnett, South West and Darling Downs statistical divisions.
4. South East Queensland (SEQ), consisting of Sunshine Coast, West Moreton, Brisbane and Gold Coast statistical divisions.

A minimum sample size of 400 for each sub-sample area was deemed necessary for the analysis, with the sub-sample data being subsequently combined and weighted to represent the population distribution across Queensland.

The target population for the sample was all females aged 18 years or more who at the time of the survey were living with a male intimate partner (that is, in a hetero-sexual married or de fact relationship). A two-stage selection process was employed within each sub-sample area, first a random selection of households; and then selection of an adult female respondent within each household.

South East Queensland makes up 66% of the Queensland (QLD) population, but has only 25% of the total sample. Therefore, in order to combine the samples for a proportional state-wide sample, weighting was necessary.¹¹ Information used to calculate the weights is presented in table 2.1, below.

Table 2.1 Weight calculations

Sub-sample area	Population	% QLD Population	Sample size	% Total Sample	Weighting factor	Weighted sample
Central Queensland	378,768	9.06	465	25.04	.36	168
North Queensland	501,380	11.99	467	25.15	.48	223
South Queensland	531,387	12.71	464	24.99	.51	236
South East Queensland	2,769,896	66.24	461	24.82	2.67	1 230
Total Queensland	4,181,431	100.00	1,857	100.00		1,857

¹¹ Data weighting justification: Chi-square test can be used to verify whether any difference between unweighted and weighted data exists. From the p value ($p < .001$), we can conclude that there is evidence of a statistically significant difference between the weighted and unweighted data.

2.2.4 Description of the sample

The sample comprised 1,857 women over the age of 18 years and living in a heterosexual, spousal (married or *de facto*) relationship in Queensland. The majority (87.3%) were married to their male partner and the remaining 12.7 percent were in a *de facto* relationship. Just over 35% of the women were aged 55 years or more. Women aged 35 – 44 years comprised 24.8% of the sample and 23.3% of the sample were aged 45 – 54 years. The remaining 16.6% of the women were aged 18 – 34 years. Forty-two percent of them had children aged less than 16 years. Eighty-two percent of the women in the sample were born in Australia, but only 1.7% identified as Aboriginal, while less than 1% identified as Torres Strait Islander or Australian South Sea Islander.

More than a quarter of the women (28.6%) had a university degree or equivalent qualification; while just under 6% of the women had education to primary school level only. Nearly half (49.5%) of the women had no formal education beyond high school. Eighteen point eight percent of the women identified 'home-maker' as their occupation (compared to 0.7% of the male partners), while 3.7% reported they were unemployed (compared to 2.3% of the males), 21.1% were retired or pensioners (compared to 22.3% of the males) and just under a quarter of the women (24.6%) were employed full-time (compared to 67.7% of the male partners). More than half of the women (56.8%) earned less than \$26,001 (compared to just under a quarter of the male partners). Similar numbers of the women and male partners (28% and 27% respectively) earned between \$26,001 and \$52,000. Only 2.4% of the women, compared to 15.5% of the male partners earned more than \$100,000.

2.3 Data analysis

Raw data from the CATI system were analysed using PASW Statistics 18, formerly known as SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) Statistics 18, or SPSS Base). The data were subjected to a range of statistical tests including Logistic Regression Analysis to examine whether there was an association between types of intimate partner abuse and a number of independent variables such as the socio-demographic characteristics of the women and their partners, other behavioural characteristics etc.

Logistic regression is used to predict a categorical (usually dichotomous) variable from a set of predictor variables. Logistic regression is particularly useful in circumstances in which these predictor variables are a mix of continuous and categorical variables and/or are not normally distributed. Logistic regression is frequently used in medical research in which the dependent variable is the presence or absence of a disease and more recently in social science research on intimate partner abuse, in which case the dependent variable is the presence or absence of abuse.

The results of logistic regression are expressed as an odds ratio. In brief, the odds ratio is a way of comparing whether the probability of a certain event is the same for two groups. An odds ratio of one (1) implies that the event is equally likely in both groups. An odds ratio greater than one (>1) implies that the event is more likely in the first group, and an odds ratio less than one (<1) implies that the event is less likely in the first group. In this report, unadjusted odds ratios have been used. The 95% confidence intervals (CI) provide the range

in which it can be 95% sure that if the survey were repeated, the new findings would fall within this range. The lower and the upper confidence levels help in understanding the reliability of the data. The unadjusted odds ratios and the 95% confidence levels of all survey data have been presented in Appendix 3.

Chapter 3: Research process and results

3.1 Experience of abuse

3.1.1 Physical abuse

Physical abuse refers to an act or a behaviour that could be physically intimidating, could hurt, or actually hurts another person. A set of ten questions was asked regarding the experience of physical abuse and sexual abuse. These questions were based on the questions on physical abuse first devised in the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS) by Straus (1979). This CTS has a strong reliability and construct validity.

The following nine questions were asked to assess the prevalence of physical abuse:

- Has your partner ever threatened to hit you with his fist or anything else that could have hurt you?
- Has he ever thrown anything at you that could have hurt you?
- Has your partner ever pushed, grabbed or shoved you in a way that could have hurt you?
- Has your partner ever slapped you?
- Has your partner ever kicked, bit or hit you with his fist?
- Has your partner ever hit you with something that could have hurt you?
- Has your partner ever beaten you?
- Has your partner ever choked or strangled you?
- Has your partner ever used or threatened to use a gun, a knife or any similar weapon on you?

To assess the prevalence of sexual abuse, the women surveyed were asked “Has your partner ever forced you into any unwanted sexual activity?”

If the women answered affirmatively, they were further asked if these acts happened in the past 12 months. The responses were limited to Yes, No, Do Not Know or No response. Internal reliability (Cronbach’s α (alpha) coefficient) was found to be 0.81 for these ten questions on intimate partner physical and sexual abuse.

Table 3.1, below, shows the breakdown of women’s experiences of physical abuse and sexual abuse. Out of the total sample of 1,857 women, 243 (13.1%) reported at least one of these forms of abuse by their current partner at some point in the lifetime of the relationship (Table 3.1). The most common abusive behaviours were ‘threatening’ and ‘pushing, grabbing or shoving’ followed by ‘slapping’, ‘kicking, biting, hitting with a fist’ and ‘hitting with something’.

Table 3.2 Women's experience of physical abuse and sexual abuse

Experience of abusive behaviour	Ever during relationship		During the last 12 months	
	Number	%	Number	%
Pushed grabbed or shoved	158	5.8	36	1.9
Threatened to hit with fist or anything else	121	6.5	31	1.7
Thrown anything that could hurt	23	1.2	23	1.2
Slapped	68	3.7	15	0.8
Kicked, bit or hit with fist	39	2.1	7	0.4
Choked or strangled	25	1.3	9	0.5
Hit with something	30	1.6	6	0.3
Beaten	12	0.6	2	0.1
Threatened to use gun, knife/ similar weapon	20	1.1	7	0.4
Subtotal for physical abuse	216	11.6	136	7.3
Forced into unwanted sexual activity	27	1.5	7	0.4
TOTAL (physical and sexual abuse) ^(a)	243	13.1	143	7.7

(a) If a woman experienced more than one type of physical violence, she was only counted once in the total.

3.1.2 Non-physical abuse

A set of ten questions was asked regarding non-physical intimate partner abuse experienced by the women. These non-physical abusive behaviours were then classified as psychological abuse, social-psychological abuse, and economic abuse. The questions included the frequency of the behaviour in the relationship. Internal reliability (Cronbach's α (alpha) coefficient) was 0.833 for these ten questions on intimate partner non-physical abuse.

Psychological abuse included acts or behaviours that could belittle, demoralise or frighten the female partner or make her feel bad. In the survey, this type of abuse was assessed through the following questions:

- He puts you down or calls you names to make you feel bad?
- He harms and threatens to harm someone close to you?
- He damages or destroys your possessions or property?
- He demands that you do what he wants?
- He acts like you are his personal servant?

Social-psychological abuse included acts/behaviours that limit the social interaction and participation of the female partner. In the survey, this abuse was assessed through the following questions:

- He limits your contact with family or friends?
- He demands to know who you were with and where you are at all times?
- He is jealous and does not want you to talk to other men?

Economic abuse included acts or behaviours that limit the female partner's access to the family income and resources, and deprive her of spending money in an independent way. In the survey, this abuse was assessed through the following questions:

- He is stingy in giving you enough money to run the home?
- He prevents you from knowing about the family income/having access to family income?

The analysis of the data suggests that:

- 33% of the respondent women have experienced at least one type of non-physical abuse in their current relationship
- 25.2% experienced psychological abuse alone
- 18.5% experienced social-psychological abuse, while
- 5.4% experienced economic abuse from their current partner.

With regard to individual acts of non-physical abuse (refer Table 3.3 below), a very small percentage of the women 'always' or 'often' experienced the abusive acts. The experience of non-physical abusive acts was not acute, but chronic, in the sample population.

In the following section, the three subtypes of abuse (economic, psychological, and social-psychological) are discussed individually. The discussion focuses on the experience of abuse at any time in the span of the current relationship. Further, if a woman reported more than one type of non-physical abuse, she has been counted only once.

Table 3.2 Non-physical abuse ever experienced in current relationship by frequency

Type of behaviour	Always Frequency (%)	Often Frequency (%)	Rarely Frequency (%)	Sometimes Frequency (%)	Never Frequency (%)	No response Frequency (%)	Total Frequency (%)
He limits your contact with family or friends	7 (0.4)	12 (0.6)	44 (2.4)	47 (2.5)	1747 (94.1)	0 (0.0)	1,857 (100.0)
He puts you down or calls you names to make you feel bad	10 (0.5)	23 (1.2)	155 (8.3)	129 (6.9)	1539 (82.9)	1 (0.1)	1,857 (100.0)
He is jealous and does not want you to talk to other men	18 (1.0)	24 (1.3)	91 (4.9)	85 (4.6)	1638 (88.2)	1 (0.1)	1,857 (100.0)
He harms and threatens to harm someone close to you	3 (0.2)	4 (0.2)	20 (1.1)	9 (0.5)	1821 (98.1)	0 (0.0)	1,857 (100.0)
He demands to know who you were with and where you are at all times	20 (1.1)	20 (1.1)	71 (3.8)	75 (4.0)	1670 (89.9)	1 (0.1)	1,857 (100.0)
He damages or destroys your possessions or property	4 (0.2)	8 (0.4)	28 (1.5)	17 (0.9)	1800 (96.9)	0 (0.0)	1,857 (100.0)
He prevents you from knowing about the family income/having access to family income	4 (0.2)	10 (0.5)	12 (0.6)	19 (1.0)	1811 (97.5)	1 (1.1)	1,857 (100.0)
He is stingy in giving you enough money to run the home	22 (1.2)	12 (0.6)	21 (1.1)	24 (1.3)	1778 (95.7)	0 (0.0)	1,857 (100.0))
He demands that you do what he wants	14 (0.8)	21 (1.1)	72 (3.9)	83 (4.5)	1666 (89.7)	1 (1.1)	1,857 (100.0)
He acts like you are his personal servant	25 (1.3)	28 (1.5)	67 (3.6)	132 (7.1)	1603 (86.3)	2 (0.1)	1,857 (100.0)

3.2 Socio-demographic correlates of intimate partner abuse

3.2.1 Residential location and likelihood of abuse

Of the total sample of 1,857 (unweighted data) women in Queensland, 25.0% (n = 465) were from Central Queensland, 25.1% (n=467) from Northern Queensland, while 25.0% (n = 464) were living in South East Queensland and 24.8% (n=461) in Southern Queensland. As indicated in the Table 3.3a, physical abuse appears to be independent of geographical location.

Table 3.3a Experience of physical abuse by residential location

Residential location		Experience of physical abuse ever in current relationship		
		No	Yes	Total
Central Queensland	Number	300	165	465
	Percent	64.5	35.5	100.0
Northern Queensland	Number	302	165	467
	Percent	64.7	35.3	100.0
South East Queensland	Number	277	187	464
	Percent	59.7	40.3	100.0
Southern Queensland	Number	309	152	461
	Percent	67.0	33.0	100.0
Total	Number	1188	669	1,857
	Percent	64.0	36.0	100.0

Of the 464 women living in South East Queensland, 40.3% reported abuse at some time in the relationship compared with an average of 34.6% of women in the rest of Queensland. Further, no statistically significant association could be established between the location of women and any form of abuse by their current partner.

Of the total sample of 1,857 women in Queensland, 16.4% (n = 304) were from cities and 11.0% (n=206) from other metropolitan areas, while 28.7% (n = 533) were from large rural areas. Thirty four percent (n=639) were living in other rural areas and 9.4% (n=175) in remote centres in Queensland. As indicated in the Table 3.3b, physical abuse appears to be independent of geographical location.

Table 3.3b Experience of physical abuse by residential location Rural, Remote, Metropolitan Areas

Residential location	Experience of physical abuse ever in current relationship			
		No	Yes	Total
Cities	Number	187	117	304
	Percent	61.5	38.5	100
Other metropolitan centres	Number	136	70	206
	Percent	66.0	34.0	100
Large rural centres	Number	344	189	533
	Percent	64.5	35.5	100
Small rural centres	Number	119	62	181
	Percent	65.7	34.3	100
Other rural areas	Number	283	175	458
	Percent	61.8	38.2	100
Remote centres	Number	78	36	114
	Percent	68.4	31.6	100
Other remote centres	Number	41	20	61
	Percent	67.2	32.8	100
Total	Number	1188	669	1,857
	Percent	64.0	36.0	100.0

Of the women living in cities (n=304) and other metropolitan centres (n=206), approximately 36.7% (n=187) reported abuse at some time in the relationship. Thirty eight percent of the 458 women in other rural areas reported abuse, compared with an average of 35% of women in the rest of Queensland. Further, no statistically significant association could be established between the location of women and any form of abuse by their current partner.

Of the total sample of 1,864 (weighted data) women in Queensland, 9.0% (n = 169) were from the Central Queensland, 11.9% (n=223) from Northern Queensland, while 66.4% (n = 1238) were living in South East Queensland and 12.6% (n=235) in Southern Queensland. As indicated in the Table 3.3c, physical abuse appears to be independent of geographical location.

Table 3.3c Experience of physical abuse by residential location (weighted data)

Residential location	Experience of physical abuse ever in current relationship			
		No	Yes	Total
Central Queensland	Number	108	60	168
	Percent	63.9	35.5	100.0
Northern Queensland	Number	144	79	223
	Percent	64.6	35.4	100.0
South East Queensland	Number	739	499	1238
	Percent	59.7	40.3	100.0
Southern Queensland	Number	157	77	235
	Percent	67.1	32.9	100.0
Total	Number	1,149	715	1,864
	Percent	61.6	38.4	100.0

Of the 1 238 women living in South East Queensland, 40.3% reported abuse at some time in the relationship compared with an average of 34.6% of women in the rest of Queensland. Further, no statistically significant association could be established between the location of women and any form of abuse by their current partner.

Of the total sample of 1,864 women in Queensland, 43.3% (n = 807) were from cities and 12.6% (n=234) from other metropolitan areas, while 17.2% (n = 320) were equally from large and other rural areas. Only 5.9% (n=109) were living in small rural centres, 2.5% (n=46) in remote centres and 1.4% (n=27) in other remote centres in Queensland. As indicated in the Table 3.3d, physical abuse appears to be independent of geographical location.

Table 3.3d Experience of physical abuse by residential location Rural, Remote, Metropolitan Areas (weighted data)

Residential location	Experience of physical abuse ever in current relationship			
		No	Yes	Total
Cities	Number	495	312	807
	Percent	61.3	38.7	100
Other metropolitan centres	Number	144	90	234
	Percent	61.5	38.5	100
Large rural centres	Number	196	124	320
	Percent	61.3	38.8	100
Small rural centres	Number	69	40	109
	Percent	63.3	36.7	100
Other rural areas	Number	195	125	320
	Percent	60.9	39.1	100
Remote centres	Number	32	15	47
	Percent	68.1	31.9	100
Other remote centres	Number	18	9	27
	Percent	66.7	33.3	100
Total	Number	1,149	715	1,864
	Percent	61.6	38.4	100.0

Of the women living in cities (n=807) and other metropolitan centres (n=234), approximately 38.6% (n=402) reported abuse at some time in the relationship. Thirty nine percent of the 640 women in large and other rural areas reported abuse, compared with an average of 34% of women in the rest of Queensland. Further, no statistically significant association could be established between the location of women and any form of abuse by their current partner.

3.2.2 Marital status

Eighty-seven percent of the women (n=1 622) were married, while the rest were living in de facto relationships (n=235). Nearly half of the participants (45.2%) had lived for 25 years or more in the current relationship, whereas only 8.2% of the couples were together for less than 5 years.

Table 3.4 Marital status and number of years in current relationship

Years in Relationship	Relationship Type					
	Married		De facto		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Less than 5	79	4.9	73	31.1	152	8.2
5 –15	358	22.1	105	44.7	463	24.9
15 –25	362	22.3	40	17.0	402	21.7
25+	822	50.7	17	7.2	839	45.2
Total	1,622	100	235	100	1,857	100

The majority of married couples (73%) had lived for 15 years or more in the current relationship, whereas the majority of de facto relationships (75.8%) spanned less than 15 years (Table 3.4).

Table 3.5 Marital status and the experience of abuse

Type of Abuse	Relationship Type					
	Married (N=1622)		De facto (N=235)			
	n	%	n	%	Chi square	Sig
Physical						
Ever in relationship	210	12.9	33	14.0	.217	ns
Last 12 months	43	2.7	14	6.0	7.542	.006
Sexual	23	1.4	4	1.7	.116	ns
Non-physical						
Economic	81	5.0	19	8.1	3.850	.050
Psychological	398	24.5	70	29.7	3.001	ns
Social-psychological	277	17.0	67	28.5	17.777	.000
Non-physical	518	31.9	92	39.1	4.841	.028

Table 3.5 shows that twice as many women living in de facto relationships reported physical abuse in the last 12 months as women living in married relationships. Except for sexual abuse, these results were statistically significant. In the case of the latter, too few women reported sexual abuse from their partners to consider differences between the two groups statistically valid.

In relation to non-physical abuse, again, women in de facto relationships reported proportionately higher rates of abuse and this was statistically significant in relation to economic, social-psychological and emotional abuse. Women living in de facto relationships also reported an 11.5% higher rate of social-psychological abuse than married women.

Logistic regression analysis suggests that:

- A married woman was two times less likely to have experienced physical abuse during the last 12 months than a woman in a de facto relationship (OR 2.326 (CI 1.252, 4.321), Wald (df=1)= 7.139, $p<.05$). This finding is very close to the findings of a recent national study by Mouzos and Makkai (2004) which found that four percent of married women and 11% of women in de facto relationships in Australia had experienced physical abuse during the previous 12 months.

- Very significantly, women in de facto relationships were nearly two times more likely to experience social-psychological abuse from their current partner than were married women (OR 1.936, (CI 1.418, 2.644), Wald (df=1)= 17.309, $p < .001$).

Table 3.6, below, suggests that while length of relationship had little impact on the likelihood of women reporting physical abuse at any time in the current relationship, women in younger relationships did report higher rates of physical abuse during the last 12 months. Women in younger relationships also reported higher rates of economic abuse, social-psychological abuse and aggregate non-physical abuse.

Table 3.6 Frequency of intimate partner abuse by length of relationship

Type of abuse	Total (n)	Number of years in the current relationship							
		Less than 5 years (N=152)		5-15 years (N=463)		Over 15 years (N=1241)			
		Abused (f)	%	Abused (f)	%	Abused (f)	%	Chi square	sig
Physical									
Ever in relationship	243	16	12.3	68	14.0	158	12.6	8.698	ns
Last 12 months	57	12	9.2	20	4.2	25	2.0	19.001	.000
Sexual	27	2	1.5	7	1.5	17	1.4	67.870	ns
Non-Physical									
Economic	100	13	10.0	20	4.1	67	5.4	4.082	ns
Psychological	468	39	30.0	119	24.7	310	24.8	.448	ns
Social-psychological	344	45	34.6	92	19.1	207	16.5	15.946	.001
Non-physical	610	60	46.2	153	31.7	397	31.7	3.936	ns

Logistic regression analysis confirms this. Specifically:

- A woman with less than five years in the current relationship was four times more likely to experience physical abuse than a woman with over 15 years in the current relationship (OR= 4.169 (CI 2.049, 8.482), Wald (df=1)= 16.986, $p < .05$). For women in the relationship 5 to 15 years, odds were two times greater (OR=2.196 (CI 1.208, 3.993), Wald (df=1)= 6.648, $p < .05$).
- Further, women with less than five years in the current relationship were two times more likely to have experienced social-psychological abuse from their partner than women with over 15 years in the relationship (OR=2.101 (CI 1.438, 3.068) Wald (df=1)= 14.746, $p < .01$), and 1.2 times more likely to have suffered social-psychological abuse than women with 5-15 years in the current relationship (OR=1.239 (CI 0.943, 1.627) Wald (df=1)= 2.366, $p < .01$).

3.2.3 Place of residence in early years of life

Most of the women (661, 35.6%) and men (687, 37%) in the survey were living in a metropolitan city. Only 58 (3.1%) of the women and 43 (2.3%) of their partners were living in a mining town. As shown in Table 3.7, 29.5% of the women were living in an inland town comparing to 28.5% living in a rural area.

Table 3.7 Current place of residence

Place of origin	Now living in Queensland			
	Women		Men	
Metropolitan city	661	35.6	687	37.0
Town	547	29.5	491	26.4
Rural	535	28.8	570	30.7
Mining town	58	3.1	43	2.3
Other	55	3.0	58	3.1
No response/Don't know	1	0.1	8	0.5
Total	1,857	100%	1,857	100%

Few relationships were evident between the place of origin of either women or men and the experience of abuse. However, women partnered to men living in mining communities were less likely to report social-psychological abuse (3.5%) than were women whose partners are living in metropolitan centres (33.7%), towns (30.8%), or rural areas (29.9%) (χ^2 (5, $N=1,857$)=7.560, $p=.182$).

3.2.4 Age characteristics of the women and their partners

The women were within the age range 18 to 88 years with an average age of 48.68 ($SD=13.857$). The women's partners were aged between 19 and 91 years with an average age of 51.35 ($SD=14.660$). On average, women were 2.7 years younger than their male partners). At the extremes of the age difference range, one woman reported being 23 years older than her partner and another being 34 years younger.

Table 3.8 Age characteristics

Age	Women	Male partners
Minimum	18	19
Maximum	88	91
Mean	48.68	51.35
Std. Deviation	13.857	14.660
N	1,856	1,855

Table 3.9 shows that, for most forms of abuse, those women reporting abuse tended, on average, to be three to six years younger than those women who did not report it. The difference was statistically significant for physical abuse in the last 12 months and social-psychological abuse. There was no significant difference between women reporting or not reporting other types of abuse such as sexual, economic or psychological.

Table 3.9 Mean age of women by experience of abuse

Type of abuse	Mean age of women (years)			
	Abuse	No abuse	t-value	Sig
Physical				
Ever in relationship	47.84	48.81	1.014	ns
Last 12 months	42.28	48.89	3.554	.000
Sexual	45.85	48.73	1.070	ns
Non-Physical				
Economic	48.65	48.69	.025	ns
Psychological	48.69	48.68	-.004	ns
Social-psychological	46.63	49.15	3.051	.002
Non-physical	47.96	49.04	1.577	ns

While the mean age of male partners perpetrating abuse was slightly lower than the mean age of male partners who did not perpetrate abuse, with the exception of social-psychological abuse and physical abuse in the last 12 months, the differences were not statistically significant (Table 3.10). Similarly, while the average age gap between women and their partners was slightly greater in those relationships marked by abuse, these differences were also not significant.

Table 3.10 Mean age of male partners by reported abuse

Type of abuse	Mean age of male partners (years)			
	Abuse	No abuse	t-value	Sig
Physical				
Ever in relationship	50.539	51.477	.930	ns
Last 12 months	45.474	51.541	3.083	.002
Sexual	48.074	51.403	1.171	ns
Non-Physical				
Economic	52.240	51.304	-.621	ns
Psychological	51.870	51.180	-.880	ns
Social-psychological	49.654	51.741	2.386	.017
Non-physical	51.023	51.516	.681	ns

Logistic regression suggests that:

- The likelihood of women having experienced physical violence from their current partner in the last 12 months declined marginally as women got older (OR=.595, $p<.05$).
- Older women were 1.2 times less likely to report social-psychological abuse (OR=0.203, $p<.05$).

Table 3.11 shows that for most forms of abuse, older women (in this case, women over 60) report lower levels of abuse than do women in any other age category. However, the reporting of abuse varies little between the 30-45 and 46-60 year age groups (physical abuse in the last 12 months and social-psychological abuse being the only exceptions), but is substantially higher in the under 30 age group for psychological, social-psychological, and non-physical abuse. This table also suggests a much higher level of reporting of emotional, psychological and social-psychological abuse by younger women (approximately 10% higher rate of reporting than women 30-45 and 46-60).

Table 3.11 Women's age by reporting of abuse

Type of abuse	Age of women				Sig
	<30 (%)	30-45 (%)	46-60 (%)	>60 (%)	
Physical					
Ever in relationship	12.1	14.3	13.9	10.2	ns
Last 12 months	4.7	4.8	1.9	1.5	.003
Sexual	0.7	1.9	1.6	0.7	ns
Non-Physical					
Economic	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.7	ns
Psychological	29.5	24.4	24.1	26.8	ns
Social-psychological	33.6	18.1	16.5	16.9	.000
Non-physical	41.6	32.8	31.4	32.0	ns

Logistic regression shows that women under 30 were:

- Three times more likely to report physical abuse within the last 12 months (OR=3.262, (CI 1.078, 9.869), Wald (df=1)=4.380, $p<.05$).
- 2.4 times more likely to report social-psychological abuse (OR=2.488, (CI 1.621, 8.819), Wald (df=1)=17.385, $p<.001$).
- 1.5 times more likely to report non-physical abuse (OR=1.514, (CI 1.028, 2.229), Wald (df=1)=4.403, $p<.05$).

Young women are clearly at considerably greater risk of intimate partner abuse than are women in older age groups.

3.2.5 Level of education of the women and their partners

Only one-third of the women had an education to a junior secondary level; one-sixth senior secondary education; and one-sixth had some technical/TAFE education (Table 3.12). One-sixth of the male partners of the women had attained only a secondary school education. The percentage of male partners with technical/TAFE education was substantially higher than their female counterparts. This highlights both the employment profile of the region and the stratified sampling strategy. Further, 6% more women (28.5%) than men (22.5%) had a university or other higher education.

Table 3.12 Highest level of education of women and their partners

Highest education level attempted	Women		Male partners	
	n	%	n	%
Primary	110	5.9	145	7.8
Junior Secondary	605	32.6	525	28.3
Senior secondary	312	16.8	296	15.9
TAFE/technical	295	15.9	450	24.2
University	530	28.5	417	22.5
Don't know	4	0.2	22	1.2
No response	1	0.1	1	0.1

Tables 3.13 and 3.14 shows that women who only had a junior secondary-level education, or whose partners had a senior secondary-level education, reported lower levels of abuse than did those with higher levels of formal education. The overall distribution of reporting abuse against education level was statistically significant for sexual and economic abuse, as well as psychological, social-psychological and emotional abuse. Emotional (non-physical) abuse was reported at a high rate by women whose partners had a junior secondary-level education only.

Table 3.13 Educational levels of women and experience of abuse

Type of abuse	Education level of women					Sig
	Primary %	Junior secondary %	Senior secondary %	Technical %	University %	
Physical						
Ever in relationship	20.0	10.7	11.5	14.6	14.5	ns
Last 12 months	4.5	2.1	3.2	3.4	3.6	ns
Sexual	1.8	0.5	1.3	3.7	1.3	.000
Non-Physical						
Economic	10.9	4.3	5.1	7.8	4.2	.011
Psychological	29.1	25.6	21.5	25.8	25.8	ns
Social-psychological	16.4	19.5	18.3	18.6	18.1	ns
Non-physical	35.5	32.7	31.4	34.2	32.4	ns

Table 3.14 Educational levels of male partners and women's experiences of abuse

Type of abuse	Education level of male partners					Sig
	Primary %	Junior secondary %	Senior secondary %	Technical %	University %	
Physical						
Ever in relationship	12.4	16.4	7.4	14.9	10.8	.005
Last 12 months	2.1	4.4	1.7	3.6	1.9	ns
Sexual	0.7	1.9	0.7	2.2	1.0	ns
Non-physical						
Economic	7.6	4.6	3.7	6.2	5.9	ns
Psychological	26.2	29.5	16.2	27.6	23.0	.001
Social-psychological	15.2	22.9	15.5	19.6	15.1	.024
Non-physical	30.3	37.7	25.7	35.8	29.3	.004

Logistic regression confirmed that the education level of women or their male partners had no bearing on their reporting of any form of abuse. However:

- Very significantly, women whose male partner had an education only up to junior secondary level were nearly one and a half times more likely to have experienced physical abuse during the last year than were women whose male partner had a higher level of education (OR= 1.408, $p<.001$).
- Similarly, the women with less educated partners were more likely to have experienced psychological abuse (OR=1.324, $p<.05$) and social-psychological abuse (OR=1.900, $p<0.001$).

3.2.6 Number of children

Of the 1,857 couples in the survey, 1,671 (90%) had children. Eleven point six percent had one child; 35.4% had two children; 24.3% three children; 11.1% four children and 7.5% five to nine children. The average number of children per couple with children was 2.71 (SD=1.299). However, 685 of the couples with children did not have a child currently living with them on either a full-time or part-time basis. Twenty-two percent of the families had two children currently living with them. Thus, the mean number of children currently living with their parents was 1.23 (SD=1.288).

Table 3.15 show that there are no significant difference between women reporting any form of abuse with children living at home than women whom do not report abuse.

Table 3.15 Mean number of children living at home by experience of abuse

Type of abuse	Mean number of children living at home			
	Abuse	No abuse	t-value	Sig
Physical				
Ever in relationship	.522	.531	-.261	ns
Last 12 months	.579	.529	.745	ns
Sexual	.481	.531	-.513	ns
Non-Physical				
Economic	.550	.529	.403	ns
Psychological	.532	.529	.081	ns
Social-psychological	.529	.530	-.056	ns
Non-physical	.536	.527	.340	ns

Logistic regression was used to examine the relative experience of abuse by women who had children living at home and women who either did not have children or whose children were not living at home. No correlation was found between having children and the experience of abuse.

3.2.7 Employment status

Of the total sample, 44.4% of the women were unemployed/not working, 24.6% worked full-time, 21.9% worked part-time and the rest (9.2%) worked on a casual basis. On the other hand, 67.6% of the male partners worked on a full-time basis, while less than 5% worked either on a part-time or casual basis. A smaller proportion (25.6%) was unemployed/not working. Of the working population, less than half of working women (44.2%) were employed full-time, whereas 90.9% of the men were employed on a full-time basis (Table 3.16).

Table 3.16 Nature of employment of working population

Nature of job	Women		Male partners	
	Number	%	Number	%
Full-time	456	44.2	1256	90.9
Part-time	407	39.3	79	5.7
Casual	170	16.5	47	3.4
Total	1,033	100	1,382	100

Many of the women interviewed (44.4%) were not working in a remunerative job. Out of these 824 women, over one-third (42.2%) identified themselves as 'homemaker performing home duties', while 35.8% identified themselves as 'retired'. Out of the 475 males, one-fifth (20.2%) was identified as on 'pension' and over two-thirds (66.7%) were identified as 'retired' (Table 3.17).

Table 3.17 Working status of unemployed population

Working Status	Women		Male partners	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Unemployed and looking for work	35	4.2	25	5.3
Unemployed and not looking for work	34	4.1	17	3.6
Retired	295	35.8	317	66.7
Student	14	1.7	4	0.8
Home duties	348	42.2	14	2.9
Pension	96	11.7	96	20.2
Don't know	1	0.1	1	0.2
No response	1	0.1	1	0.2
Total	824	100	475	100

Of the 42.9% of employed women who reported emotional abuse, the majority (89.6%) had partners in full time employment. Where the partner/spouse had a paid job, 70.5% of women reported psychological abuse.

3.2.8 Shiftwork

Of the 1,033 women who were employed in a paid job, 187 (18.1%) worked shifts. Of these, 46% worked evening shifts, 30.5% worked rotating shifts, 12.9% split shifts, 7.5% irregular shifts, 9.1% on-call schedules and 23.5% weekend day shifts. Eleven point eight percent worked extended work days. Only 12.8% worked fixed shifts.

Out of the 1,382 male partners who were in paid employment, 350 (25.3%) were working variable types of shiftwork.

Twenty four point six percent of women employed to undertake shiftwork reported social psychological abuse compared with a rate for all other women in paid employment of 18.6% ($\chi^2(2, N = 1,033) = 793.19, p < .001$). No other relationships were found between women's or men's engagement in shiftwork and the experience of abuse.

3.2.9 Employment and type of industry

A list of 18 industries was provided to the women. As shown in Table 3.18, below, working women were primarily employed in the health and community services (21.8%), education (18.4%), and the retail trade (8.7%). Many male partners (13.2%) were employed in the mining industry. Next were construction (12.4%), and agriculture, forestry and fishing (collectively) with 11% (Table 3.18, below). The coal mining and construction industries were the predominant employers for partners of the women surveyed.

Few meaningful differences were evident in the rates of abuse reported by women working in different industries. Similarly, few meaningful differences were evident in the rates of abuse reported by women whose partners worked in different industries. The exception to this pattern was social-psychological abuse. While reported by 18.5% of women overall, this form of abuse was reported by 29.2% of women who worked in mining themselves ($\chi^2(6, N = 1,033) = 22.97, p=.001$) and by 14.8% of women whose partners worked in mining ($\chi^2(6, N = 1382) = 21.296, p=.002$). This meant that the partners of men working in the mining industry were 1.6 times more likely to experience social-psychological abuse ($OR=1.675, p<0.05$).

Table 3.18 Employment by industry

Industry category	Women		Male partners	
	n.	%	n.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	52	5.0	152	11.0
Mining	24	2.3	183	13.2
Manufacturing	15	1.5	62	4.5
Electricity, gas and water supply	10	1.0	56	4.1
Construction	24	2.3	171	12.4
Wholesale trade	9	0.9	27	1.7
Retail trade	90	8.7	48	3.5
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	50	4.8	23	1.7
Transport and storage	21	2.0	81	5.9
Communication services	8	0.8	19	1.4
Finance, property and business services	28	2.7	18	1.3
Finance and insurance	24	2.3	15	1.1
Property and business services	8	0.8	11	0.8
Government administration and defence	59	5.7	57	4.1
Cultural and recreational services	10	1.0	7	0.5
Health and community services	225	21.8	79	5.7
Education	190	18.4	71	5.1
Personal and other services	34	3.3	18	1.3
Other	152	14.7	287	20.8
Total	1,033	100	1382	100

3.2.10 Income of the women and their partners

Table 3.19 shows the income levels for women responding to the survey, and the income levels of their partners. Nearly one-sixth (16.0%) of the women did not have an income and one-sixth (17.6%) of the total women had a gross income less than \$300 per week, while only two percent of them had a gross weekly income of over \$2,000 (Table 3.19). Ten percent had a gross income between \$1,000 and \$1,999.

Table 3.19 Gross income of women and partners

Income Category		Women		Male partners	
Per Week	Per Year	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
\$2,500 or more	\$130,000 or more	15	0.8	78	4.2
\$2,000 - \$2,499	\$100,00 - \$129,000	21	1.1	137	7.4
\$1,500 - \$1,999	\$78,000 - \$99,999	34	1.8	165	8.9
\$1,000 - \$1,499	\$52,000 - \$77,999	155	8.3	288	15.5
\$800 - \$999	\$41,600 - \$51,999	109	5.9	149	8.0
\$700 - \$799	\$36,400 - \$41,599	91	4.9	90	4.8
\$600 - \$699	\$31,300 - \$36,399	89	4.8	56	3.0
\$500 - \$599	\$26,000 - \$31,199	127	6.8	82	4.4
\$400 - \$499	\$20,800 - \$25,999	127	6.8	50	2.7
\$300 - \$399	\$15,000 - \$29,799	93	5.0	30	1.6
\$200 - \$299	\$10,400 - \$15,599	201	10.8	152	8.2
\$160 - \$199	\$8,320 - \$10,399	47	2.5	25	1.3
\$120 - \$159	\$6,240 - \$8,319	32	1.7	12	0.6
\$80 - \$119	\$4,160 - \$6,239	23	1.2	3	0.2
\$40 - \$79	\$2,080 - \$4,159	19	1.0	1	0.1
\$1 - \$39	\$1 - \$2,079	4	0.2	2	0.1
Nil or Negative Income		297	16.0	64	3.4
Don't Know		220	11.8	295	15.9
No Response		153	8.2	178	9.6
Total		1,857	100.0	1,857	100.0

By contrast, one-eighth (11.6%) of the total number of male partners had a gross weekly income over \$2,000, and just under one-quarter (24.4%) had a gross weekly income between \$1,000 and \$1,999. There were no relationships between the income of women or their partners and the reporting of any form of abuse.

3.3 Relational correlates of intimate partner abuse

Here 'relational' refers to the couple's management of finances, including bank accounts and the level of debt; and the distribution of household tasks, including domestic tasks, caring for children and maintenance tasks.

3.3.1 Maintenance of bank accounts

The majority (82.7%) of the 1,857 couples ran a joint bank account. However, 40.5% of the women and 28.0% of their partners maintained individual bank accounts either in place of, or in addition to, a joint account.

Tables 3.20 to 3.22 show a number of associations between couples' approaches to the maintenance of bank accounts and various forms of intimate partner abuse. Specifically, women who did not operate a joint bank account with their partner reported higher levels of recent physical abuse as well as economic, social-psychological and emotional abuse. Women who operated an individual account reported higher levels of physical abuse as well as psychological and social-psychological abuse. These women also reported much higher levels of emotional abuse than those who do not have their own bank account. Women

whose partners operated individual accounts reported higher levels of recent physical abuse as well as economic abuse and even higher levels of psychological and emotional abuse.

Table 3.20 Couples operating a joint account by reporting of abuse

Type of Abuse	Joint account (n=1536)		No joint account (n=321)			
	n	%	n	%	Chi square	Sig
Physical						
Ever in relationship	180	11.7	63	19.6	14.597	.000
Last 12 months	34	2.2	23	7.2	21.880	.000
Sexual	19	1.2	8	2.5	2.920	.088
Non-physical						
Economic	60	3.9	40	12.5	38.138	.000
Psychological	371	24.2	97	30.2	5.180	.023
Social-psychological	253	16.5	91	28.3	24.818	.000
Non-physical	480	31.3	130	40.5	10.296	.001

Table 3.21 Women operating an individual account by reporting of abuse

Type of Abuse	Individual account (n=752)		No individual account (n=1105)			
	n	%	n	%	χ^2	Sig
Physical						
Ever in relationship	127	16.9	116	10.5	16.068	.000
Last 12 months	44	5.9	13	1.2	32.865	.000
Sexual	15	2.0	12	1.1	2.579	ns
Non-physical						
Economic	36	4.8	37	3.3	22.214	.000
Psychological	226	30.1	242	21.9	15.778	.000
Social-psychological	167	22.2	177	16.0	11.358	.001
Non-physical	286	38.0	324	29.3	15.392	.000

Table 3.22 Partners operating an individual account by reporting of abuse

Type of Abuse	Individual account (n=520)		No individual account (n=1337)			
	n	%	n	%	χ^2	Sig
Physical						
Ever in relationship	83	16.0	160	12.0	5.252	.022
Last 12 months	32	6.2	25	1.9	23.094	.000
Sexual	12	2.3	15	1.1	3.674	.055
Non-physical						
Economic	47	9.0	53	4.0	18.921	.000
Psychological	167	32.1	301	22.5	18.313	.000
Social-psychological	121	23.3	223	16.7	10.773	.001
Non-physical	211	40.6	399	29.8	19.556	.000

Similarly, logistic regression analysis suggests that women who run a joint account with their partner were:

- significantly less likely to have experienced physical abuse during the last 12 months of their relationship (OR=.293, $p<.001$)
- less likely to experience economic abuse (OR= 0.286, $p<.001$)

- less likely to experience social-psychological abuse (OR=0.498, $p<.001$), and
- less likely to experience non-physical abuse (OR=0.668, $p=.001$).

3.3.2 Level of debt

At the individual level, a large majority of the women (70.4%) and their partners (70.6%) did not owe any debt; but, at the joint level only 40.4% of the couples did not owe any debt (Table 3.23).

Table 3.23 Individual and joint levels of debt for women and their partners

Amount of Debt	Respondent women		Partners		Joint debt	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
No personal debt	1,308	70.4	1,311	70.6	750	40.4
< \$5,000	151	8.1	109	5.9	56	3.0
\$5,000-10,000	54	2.9	38	2.0	34	1.8
\$10,000-20,000	52	2.8	38	2.0	38	2.0
\$20,000-50,000	57	3.1	54	2.9	86	4.6
\$50,000-100,000	35	1.9	37	2.0	113	6.1
\$100,000-200,000	42	2.3	63	3.4	207	11.1
> \$200,000	25	1.3	40	2.2	411	22.1
Don't know	22	1.2	50	2.7	30	1.6
No response	111	6.0	117	6.3	132	7.1
Total	1,857	100.0	1,857	100.0	1,857	100.0

Reflecting the very low levels of individual debt, there were no meaningful associations between the individual debt of either women or their partners and the reporting of abuse. However, as Table 3.24 shows, there were relationships evident between joint debt and abuse. Psychological abuse and emotional abuse was disproportionately high among couples with joint debt of less than \$5,000 and between \$20,000 and \$50,000. Economic abuse was disproportionately high among couples with joint debt between \$10,000 and \$20,000.

Table 3.24 Level of joint debt by reporting of abuse

Type of Abuse	Level of joint debt (000's)										
	None	<5 (%)	5-10 (%)	10-20 (%)	20-50 (%)	50-100 (%)	100-200 (%)	>200 (%)	Don't know (%)	χ^2	Sig
Physical											
Ever in relationship	13.2	16.1	17.6	15.8	14.0	15.0	12.6	12.9	10.0	3.918	ns
Last 12 months	3.6	1.8	5.9	5.3	3.5	2.7	1.9	3.4	.0	7.032	ns
Sexual	1.2	.0	.0	.0	2.3	1.8	2.4	1.9	3.3	7.479	ns
Non-physical											
Economic	6.8	7.1	5.9	10.5	4.7	1.8	4.8	4.1	13.3	17.247	.045
Psychological	26.4	37.5	29.4	23.7	33.7	24.8	25.1	22.4	20.0	15.150	ns
Social-psychological	19.5	21.4	29.4	23.7	23.3	14.2	19.3	18.0	10.0	13.886	ns
Non-physical	33.9	44.6	38.2	34.2	40.7	31.0	32.8	31.1	23.3	13.150	ns

Logistic regression suggests, similarly, that couples with joint debt in the lower ranges (but greater than zero) are those whose relationships are most likely to be marred by abuse of the female partner. Women with joint debt less than \$20,000 were 7.6 times more likely to have experienced economic abuse than women in relationships where the couple did not owe any debt (OR=7.647, $p<0.001$).

3.3.3 Division of household labour

Household labour is defined here as unpaid work done at home to maintain family members and/or a home (Shelton & John 1996). Methods to measure household labour can include time diaries, time estimates, and/or gender specific work allocations based on who performs specific tasks rather than how much time is spent on those tasks (Baxter 2001, 2002; Blood & Wolfe 1960). This study used the proportional measure to access performance data for a range of household tasks. The response categories were: 'always by me' (100 %), 'mostly by me' (75 %), 'shared equally' (50 %), 'mostly by my partner' (25 %), 'always by my partner' (0 %). The mean scores provided in Table 3.25 are representative of responses for individual tasks and higher mean scores represent higher levels of responsibility. Missing data were excluded meaning that the means provided in Table 3.25, below, reflect only those households in which each specific task was undertaken.

Table 3.25 Proportional performance of household tasks by the female partners

Household Task	Frequency	Mean	SD
Laundry duties	915	1.81	0.95
Ironing the clothes	1032	2.26	1.78
House cleaning duties	678	2.13	1.13
Preparation of meals	628	2.18	1.07
Washing the dishes	420	2.91	1.49
Paying the bills	830	2.35	1.44
Purchasing groceries	822	2.05	1.11
Looking after dependent children	174	4.24	1.91
Dropping off/picking up children from school	269	4.48	2.00
Attending special events at school	159	4.55	1.86
Car cleaning	216	3.71	1.49
Mowing the lawn	126	4.34	1.36
Household maintenance and repairs	45	4.33	1.16

It is evident from Table 3.25 that women had primary responsibility for traditionally 'masculine tasks' such as lawn mowing and household repairs, as well as childcare. To simplify these data, three indexes were calculated that assigned each survey respondent a composite score for domestic tasks (laundry, ironing, cleaning, meals, dishwashing, bill paying and grocery shopping), maintenance tasks (car cleaning, lawn mowing and household repairs) and childcare tasks (looking after dependent children, school transport and attending school events). A score of one on these indexes indicates that a respondent took sole responsibility while a score of five indicates that her partner took sole responsibility for the task. Tables 3.26 to 3.28 compare the mean scores on these indexes for women reporting abuse and those women not reporting abuse.

Table 3.26 Responsibility for domestic tasks by experience of abuse

Type of abuse	Mean score responsibility index		t-valueSig	
	Abuse	No abuse		
Physical				
Ever in relationship	1.8955	2.0439	2.024	.043
Last 12 months	1.8804	2.0649	1.857	ns
Sexual	1.7899	2.0625	1.742	ns
Non-Physical				
Economic	1.8916	2.0697	2.457	.014
Psychological	1.8880	2.1194	6.039	.000
Social-psychological	1.9753	2.0786	2.370	.018
Non-physical	1.9397	2.1203	5.064	.000

Table 3.26 shows that there was very little difference between those women who reported physical abuse and those women who did not, in terms of the levels of responsibility they took for general domestic tasks. The major exception to this pattern was women who reported any form of non-physical abuse, who averaged a substantially higher level of responsibility for domestic tasks than did women who did not report this type of abuse. Table 3.27 shows that women reporting non-physical abuse also took higher levels of responsibility for the traditionally masculine tasks of house and garden maintenance. Table 3.28 shows that, except for sexual abuse and social-psychological abuse, differences exist in the level of responsibility for the performance of childcare tasks between those women reporting abuse and those not reporting abuse.

Table 3.27 Responsibility for maintenance tasks by experience of abuse

Type of abuse	Mean score responsibility index		t-value	Sig
	Abuse	No abuse		
Physical				
Ever in relationship	3.8286	3.8967	.633	ns
Last 12 months	3.6746	3.8890	1.534	ns
Sexual	3.3860	3.8894	2.447	.015
Non-Physical				
Economic	3.5936	3.8988	2.850	.004
Psychological	3.7542	3.9252	3.065	.002
Social-psychological	3.7807	3.9069	2.060	.040
Non-physical	3.7751	3.9368	3.158	.002

Table 3.28 Responsibility for childcare tasks by experience of abuse

Type of abuse	Mean score responsibility index			
	Abuse	No abuse	t-value	Sig
Physical				
Ever in relationship	2.5648	2.9510	3.875	.000
Last 12 months	2.5952	2.9382	3.063	.002
Sexual	2.7778	2.9257	.755	ns
Non-Physical				
Economic	2.6667	2.9393	2.811	.005
Psychological	2.7533	2.9856	4.606	.000
Social-psychological	2.8478	2.9417	1.633	ns
Non-physical	2.7986	2.9900	4.071	.000

Logistic regression suggests that women solely or mostly responsible for looking after the children were:

- 2.7 times more likely to experience non-physical abuse (OR=2.703, $p<.05$); and
- 2.4 times more likely to experience psychological abuse (OR=2.486, $p<.05$).

3.4 Behavioural correlates of intimate partner abuse

3.4.1 Tobacco smoking

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) National Health Survey on tobacco smoking in Australia in 2004-05 (ABS 2006c), tobacco smoking is the largest single preventable cause of death and disease in Australia. The survey reported that 23% of adults were current smokers (20% of adult women and, 26% of adult men). Of these, 92% were daily smokers.

In line with Australian statistics, 14.3% of the women responding to the survey and 17.7% of their male partners smoked cigarettes. Of the 265 women who smoked, 67.5% smoked six to 20 cigarettes a day and 3.4% smoked over 30 cigarettes a day. Of the 329 male smokers it was estimated that 69.9% smoked up to 20 cigarettes per day and 6.1% smoked more than 30. Table 3.29, below shows the relationship between women's smoking of tobacco and experiences of abuse, followed by Table 3.30, which shows the relationship between their partners' smoking of tobacco and their experiences of abuse.

Table 3.29 Experience of abuse by women's smoking

Type of Abuse	Smokers (n=265)		Non-smokers (n=1592)			
	n	%	n	%	χ^2	Sig
Physical						
Ever in relationship	56	21.1	187	11.7	17.597	.000
Last 12 months	18	6.8	39	2.4	14.400	.000
Sexual	6	2.3	21	1.3	1.416	ns
Non-physical						
Economic	22	8.3	78	4.9	5.162	.023
Psychological	90	34.0	378	23.7	12.584	.000
Social-psychological	71	26.8	273	17.1	14.000	.000
Non-physical	113	42.6	497	31.2	13.439	.000

Cigarette smoking women were:

- 1.2 times more likely to experience economic abuse than their non-smoking counterparts (OR=1.218, $p=.023$)

There was no evidence that the risk of any of these forms of violence increased with the rate of smoking.

Table 3.30 Experience of abuse by partners' smoking

Type of Abuse	Smokers (n=329)		Non-smokers (n=1528)			
	n	%	n	%	χ^2	Sig
Physical						
Ever in relationship	56	17.0	187	12.2	5.445	.020
Last 12 months	19	5.8	38	2.5	9.838	.002
Sexual	8	2.4	19	1.2	2.667	ns
Non-physical						
Economic	22	6.7	78	5.1	1.330	ns
Psychological	89	27.1	379	24.8	.726	ns
Social-psychological	76	23.1	268	17.5	5.547	.019
Non-physical	120	36.5	490	32.1	2.383	ns

Men's smoking was associated with an increased reporting of most forms of abuse (see Table 3.30). Women whose partners smoked were:

- 2.7 times more likely to have experienced abuse at some time in the current relationship (OR=2.701, $p<.001$)
- 4.6 times more likely to have experienced physical abuse in the last 12 months (OR=4.644, $p=.001$)
- 2.1 times more likely to have experienced social-psychological abuse (OR=2.183 $p=.001$), and

Again, there was no evidence to suggest that the risk of abuse increased as partners' cigarette consumption increased.

3.4.2 Alcohol consumption

A set of three questions was asked regarding the woman's, and her partner's, drinking habits. These questions were based on the AUDIT-C instrument developed by Bush et al (1998) as a brief screening test to identify, assess and advise risky drinkers in clinical settings. Despite the inherent limitations of basing diagnosis on such a brief questionnaire, several studies have found the AUDIT-C instrument to identify between 54 and 98% of people engaged in active alcohol misuse, depending on the definitions of heavy drinking used, and to compare favourably with longer and more complex instruments (Gual et al. 2002). While this survey was not focused on screening women in a clinical setting, the use of AUDIT-C is justified on the basis that this instrument does provide a reasonably reliable indication of the relative exposure of participants to risky drinking behaviour within spousal relationships.

AUDIT-C includes three questions, addressing:

- frequency of alcohol consumption (never, monthly or less, 2-4 times a month, 2-3 times a week, 4 or more times a week)
- number of standard drinks consumed per session of drinking (1-2 drinks, 3-4 drinks, 5-6 drinks, 7-9 drinks and 10 or more drinks), and

- frequency of consuming six or more standard drinks on one occasion (never, less than monthly, monthly, weekly and daily or almost daily).

In order to be specific, the women were advised that one standard drink equals one middy or pot of ordinary beer (285 ml), one glass of wine (100 ml), one nip of spirits (30 ml) or one glass of fortified wine like port or sherry (60 ml).

Each question in AUDIT-C is scored from 0–4 points. These are then aggregated to allocate each subject a total score out of 12. While, as noted above, definitions of problem or risky drinking may differ, Gual et al's (2002) Spanish study found that values of ≥ 4 for women and ≥ 5 for men provided the best correlation with a clinical diagnosis of risky drinking.

Tables 3.31 to 3.33 provide frequency data for each of the three questions in the AUDIT-C instrument. They show that women drank less frequently than their partners; that they consumed less alcohol when they did drink; and that they engaged less often in heavy drinking sessions of six or more standard drinks.

Table 3.31 Frequency of alcohol consumption

Number of occasions	Women		Male partners	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Never	356	19.2	247	13.3
Monthly or less	471	25.4	305	16.4
2-4 times a month	323	17.4	286	15.4
2-3 times a week	347	18.7	393	21.2
4 or more times a week	357	19.2	624	33.6
No response	3	0.2	2	0.1
Total	1,857	100.0	1,857	100.0

Table 3.32 Number of drinks per occasion of drinking

Number of drinks	Women		Male partners	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1-2 drinks	1485	80.0	1153	62.1
3-4 drinks	278	15.0	461	24.8
5-6 drinks	67	3.6	163	8.8
7-9 drinks	16	0.9	37	2.0
10 or more drinks	9	0.5	31	1.7
Don't know	2	0.1	12	0.6
Total	1,857	100	1,857	100.0

Table 3.33 Frequency of consuming six or more drinks on one occasion

Number of occasions	Women		Male partners	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Never	951	63.4	924	49.8
Less than monthly	350	23.3	481	25.9
Monthly	125	8.3	222	12.0
Weekly	65	4.3	185	10.0
Daily or almost daily	6	0.4	36	1.9
Don't know	4	0.3	9	0.5
Total	1,857	100.0	1,857	100.0

Table 3.34 shows AUDIT-C scores by gender. Reflecting the data presented in Tables 3.31 to 3.33, above, the scores suggest much more frequent and heavy levels of alcohol consumption among men. However, the differential tolerance for alcohol between women and men must also be taken into account when interpreting this data. Using the cut-off scores suggested by Gual et al (2002) of ≥ 4 and ≥ 5 for women and men respectively, it would appear that some 34.6% of women and 40% of men displayed evidence of risky drinking behaviour.

Table 3.34 AUDIT-C scores by gender

AUDIT-C score	Women		Male partners	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
0	356	19.3	247	13.4
1	336	18.2	197	10.7
2	256	13.8	159	8.7
3	262	14.2	197	10.7
4	304	16.4	302	16.4
5	148	8.0	240	13.1
6	90	4.9	203	11.0
7	53	2.9	110	6.0
8	28	1.5	94	5.1
9	8	0.4	42	2.3
10	6	0.3	31	1.7
11	2	0.1	11	0.6
12	0	0.0	5	0.3
Total	1,857	100.0	1,857	100.0

In other words, while a cursory examination of the data would suggest that women drank much less than men did, taking full account of women's and men's differential tolerance for alcohol leads to the conclusion that both genders displayed worrying levels of alcohol consumption.

Figure 1 shows the distribution of AUDIT-C scores to be more-or-less normal among male partners but bimodal among women with the first peak at zero and the second peak at a score of five. This suggests that the main difference between the female and male samples was the greater prevalence among women of subjects who never drank more than two standard drinks in one session. While women were more likely than men either not to drink alcohol or to drink very lightly, those women who fell outside this group were no less likely than men to engage in risky drinking behaviour.

Figure 1 Distribution of AUDIT-C scores by gender

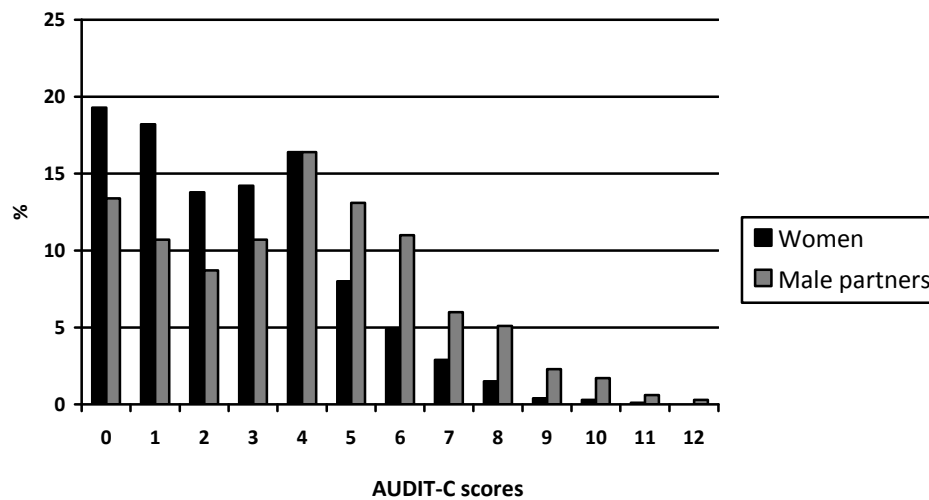


Table 3.35 compares the mean AUDIT-C score for women who reported abuse with the mean AUDIT-C score for women who did not report abuse. While some differences were not statistically significant, the overall pattern is of consistently, though slightly, higher levels of alcohol consumption among abused women.

Table 3.35 Women's mean score on AUDIT-C by reporting of abuse

Type of abuse	Mean score AUDIT-C			
	Abuse	No abuse	t-value	Sig
Physical				
Ever in relationship	2.9	2.6	2.038	.042
Last 12 months	3.0	2.6	1.478	ns
Sexual	3.3	2.6	1.603	ns
Non-Physical				
Economic	2.9	2.6	1.059	ns
Psychological	2.6	2.6	-.359	ns
Social-psychological	2.9	2.6	2.465	.014
Non-physical	2.7	2.6	.498	ns

Table 3.36 compares the mean AUDIT-C score for the partners of women who reported abuse with the mean AUDIT-C score for the partners of women who did not report abuse. The pattern is of consistently higher levels of alcohol consumption among the partners of abused women and all the differences were statistically significant.

Table 3.36 Partners' mean score on AUDIT-C by reporting of abuse

Type of abuse	Mean score AUDIT-C			
	Abuse	No abuse	t-value	Sig
Physical				
Ever in relationship	4.8	3.7	6.017	.000
Last 12 months	5.1	3.8	3.492	.000
Sexual	5.8	3.8	3.742	.000
Non-Physical				
Economic	4.8	3.8	3.797	.000
Psychological	4.2	3.8	3.221	.001
Social-psychological	4.4	3.8	4.187	.000
Non-physical	4.3	3.7	4.358	.000

It is of some interest to note, in this regard, that the mean AUDIT-C scores for the partners of abused women were well above the threshold for risky drinking behaviour of ≥ 5 for men, while the mean score for the abused women themselves fell below the threshold of risky drinking behaviour of ≥ 4 for women. Logistic regression suggests that a woman whose male partner was a risky drinker of alcohol was nearly two times more likely to experience physical abuse (OR=1.861, $p<.05$); 1.5 times more likely to experience social-psychological abuse (OR=1.565, $p<.05$); and 1.8 times more likely to experience economic abuse (OR=1.897, $p<.05$) than women whose partners did not fall into the risky drinking category.

3.4.3 Consumption of drugs

The women were asked whether they, or their partners, consumed a range of drugs including amphetamines, ecstasy or other forms of MDMA, methamphetamines, sedatives or sleeping pills without a prescription, cannabis or marijuana, cocaine, heroin or other opiates, and other illicit or non-prescription drugs. Those who reported drug use were also asked how frequently they consumed these drugs. The results are provided in Table 3.37, which shows the level of self-reported consumption of most drugs was extremely low.

Table 3.37 Consumption of drugs (N=1,857)

Type of drug	Women		Male partners	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Amphetamines	15	0.8	13	0.7
Ecstasy or other forms of MDMA	12	0.6	16	0.9
Methamphetamines	1	0.1	2	0.1
Sedatives or sleeping pills without a prescription	14	0.8	7	0.4
Cannabis/marijuana	52	2.8	58	3.1
Cocaine	4	0.2	1	0.1
Heroin or other opiates	2	0.1	1	0.1
Other illicit or non-prescription drugs	8	0.4	8	0.4

Since the reported incidence and frequency of consumption of these substances was near negligible they did not warrant any statistical examination for associations with intimate partner abuse. However, 2.8% of the women reported using cannabis or marijuana and 3.1% reported that their partners consumed cannabis or marijuana. Both of these groups were more-or-less evenly split between those who used marijuana/cannabis monthly or less, and those that used it four times a week or more, as illustrated in Table 3.38.

Table 3.38 Frequency of use by marijuana/cannabis users

Frequency of use	Women (n=52)		Male partners (n=58)	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Monthly or less	29	55.8	32	55.2
2-4 times a month	5	9.6	2	3.4
1-3 times a week	7	13.5	11	19.0
4 or more times a week	6	11.5	12	20.1
Don't know/no response	5	9.6	1	1.7
Total	52	100.0	58	100.0

3.4.4 Gambling

According to the Queensland Household Gambling Survey 2003-2004, more than 72% of the adult population of Queensland could be classified as recreational gamblers and nearly 0.55% of the adult population as having a gambling problem. While women and men gambled in equal numbers, according to this survey, women had a lower estimated problem gambling prevalence rate of 0.39% compared with 0.72% for men.

Tables 3.39 and 3.40 shows that while most of the women and their partners gambled, the majority of these did infrequently and at low levels. There were no significant relationships between the gambling habits of women or their partners and the reporting of abuse.

Table 3.39 Gambling frequency among women and their partners

Gambling habit	Women		Male partners	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Never	721	38.8	978	52.7
1-2 times a year	299	16.1	225	12.1
Once every month or two	370	19.9	274	14.8
2-3 times a month	365	19.7	287	15.5
2-3 times a week	100	5.4	88	4.7
Don't know	2	0.2	5	0.3
Total	1,857	100	1,857	100

Table 3.40 Money usually spent on each occasion of gambling

Amount	Women		Male partners	
	Number	%	Number	%
< \$ 10	628	55.3	411	46.8
\$10 - \$30	396	34.9	288	32.8
\$ 30 - \$ 50	62	5.5	89	10.1
\$ 50 - \$ 100	42	3.7	51	5.8
> \$100	6	0.5	24	2.7
Do not know	2	0.2	16	1.8
Total	1,136	100	879	100

3.5 Reasons women continue in abusive relationships

The women were asked whether (in light of the preceding questions on abuse) they believed that they had ever been physically or non-physically abused by their current partner. One-hundred-and-forty-six (7.9%) of the total 1,857 women in the sample replied that they did believe they had been abused by their current partner, while eleven (0.6%) were unsure or did not know. Those who did believe they had been abused were asked whether they had ever considered ending the relationship. One-hundred-and-twenty-one (82.9%) had considered ending the abusive relationship, while twenty-five (17.1%) had not.

The women who believed they had been abused were also asked why they had chosen to remain in the current relationship despite their belief that they had suffered abuse. Ten potential reasons were given and women asked to comment on whether each reason was very influential, moderately influential, a small influence or of no influence.

Table 3.41, below, shows the most influential reasons for continuing the relationship included the desire to give the relationship another try, love, the resolution of problems, concern for children, and the belief that the abuse was not serious enough to warrant leaving the relationship. While less influential than other factors, more than 55% of the women indicated that having nowhere to go, the lack of financial security/independence or confidence to live independently, or feeling too ashamed had some influence on their decision to stay in the relationship, and for about 20% this was very influential. The promise of the partner to change had only a moderate influence of 20% on the women's decision to stay in the relationship.

Table 3.41 Relative influence of reasons for continuing abusive relationship (n = 156)

Reasons	Very influential	Moderate influence	Small influence	No influence	Don't know/no response
	%	%	%	%	%
Wanted to give relationship another try	61.6	15.1	2.7	17.1	3.5
I still love my partner	58.9	16.4	6.2	16.4	2.1
Resolved problems with partner	56.2	16.4	8.9	17.1	1.4
For the sake of children	43.8	12.3	6.2	30.8	6.9
Partner promised to change	21.9	19.9	14.4	41.1	2.8
Felt that abuse was not serious enough	45.9	19.2	6.2	27.4	1.4
Feeling like I have nowhere to go	24.7	10.3	7.5	55.5	2.1
Lack of financial security/independence	28.8	7.5	6.8	55.5	1.4
Lack of confidence to live independently	23.3	11.0	9.6	54.8	1.4
Feeling ashamed	16.4	9.6	10.3	61.6	2.1

3.6 Health status of women

The SF-12 Health Survey was used to measure the generic health status of women in the region. The SF-12 Health Survey is a multipurpose short form instrument with only 12 questions designed to measure eight concepts: physical functioning, role limitations due to physical health problems, bodily pain, general health, vitality (energy/fatigue), social functioning, role limitations due to emotional problems, and mental health (psychological distress and psychological wellbeing). From these, two summary scores are derived: the Physical Component Summary (PCS); and the Mental Component Summary (MCS) (Ware, et al. 1996, 1998; Ware et al. 2007). The norm-based scoring system used to derive these summaries is designed to generate a mean score of 50 and a standard deviation of 10 in the general US population. Several studies have shown that while developed and validated through US population surveys the SF-12 scale is equally suitable for the Australian population (Andrews 2002).

In the 1997 Australian National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing (n=10,641), the mean score among women for PCS was 48.75 and for MCS the mean score was 51.41 (McLennan 1998). Lower scores equal lower levels of physical and mental wellbeing. Table 3.42 shows that these were comparable with results from this survey of women in the Queensland.

Table 3.42 Descriptive statistics to measure health status of women using the SF-12 Scale

SF-12	n	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Range	Standard Deviation
PCS scale score	1829	49.69	12.75	66.56	53.81	9.44
MCS scale score	1829	51.37	9.86	70.06	60.20	9.28

Tables 3.43 and 3.44 show that, while the experience of intimate partner abuse had no significant bearing on the overall physical health and wellbeing of women at a population level, this experience had a substantial bearing on women's mental health and wellbeing.

Table 3.43 Mean score on PCS by reporting of abuse

Type of abuse	Mean score PCS			
	Abuse	No abuse	t-value	Sig
Physical				
Ever in relationship	49.0	49.8	-1.220	ns
Last 12 months	49.8	49.7	.078	ns
Sexual	48.8	49.7	-.512	ns
Non-Physical				
Economic	47.4	49.8	-2.459	.014
Psychological	48.4	50.1	-3.266	.001
Social-psychological	48.8	49.9	-1.909	.056
Non-physical	48.4	30.4	-4.141	.000

Table 3.44 Mean score on MCS by reporting of abuse

Type of abuse	Mean score MCS			
	Abuse	No abuse	t-value	Sig
Physical				
Ever in relationship	44.8	52.4	-12.168	.000
Last 12 months	37.1	51.8	-12.234	.000
Sexual	38.6	51.6	-7.292	.000
Non-Physical				
Economic	43.7	51.8	-8.717	.000
Psychological	47.1	52.8	-11.861	.000
Social-psychological	46.7	52.4	-10.567	.000
Non-physical	47.8	53.1	-11.875	.000

To place the mean scores of abused women on the MCS in context it is worth comparing them with results from the 1997 Australian National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing which examined the relationship between scores on the PCS and MCS scales with direct measures of mental disorder (see McLennan 1998). It found that women with anxiety disorders averaged MCS scores of 46.82, women with affective disorders averaged 44.48, women with substance abuse disorders 48.21, and women with a combination of mental disorders 37.70. While the SF-12 provides measures of general health and wellbeing only, and not of specific diseases, disorders, disabilities and such, it is of some importance to note that abused women in Queensland reported levels of mental wellbeing that were comparable with women from a national sample who also reported symptoms of specific mental disorders.

Based on analysis of the same database, Gill et al (2007) found that appropriate cut off scores for the purposes of epidemiological studies (that is, studies concerned with the prevalence of health conditions within the population as opposed to the clinical diagnosis of individuals) were:

- anxiety disorders and other common mental disorders ≤ 50
- depression ≤ 45 , and
- severe psychological symptomatology ≤ 36 .

Table 3.45 shows how many of the women reporting abuse fell within each of these categories. It indicates that over 40% of women reporting physical abuse within the last 12 months displayed evidence of severe psychological symptomatology, as did more than 20% of women reporting physical abuse at any stage during the current relationship, economic abuse, or social-psychological abuse. Over 15% of women reporting sexual or psychological abuse displayed evidence of severe psychological symptomatology. By contrast, only 5.7% of women who reported no physical abuse and 3.6% of women who reported no non-physical abuse had MCS scores of ≤ 36 .

Table 3.45 Reporting of abuse by MCS categories defined by Gill, et al. (2007)

Type of Abuse	MCS ≤ 36		MCS > 36 & ≤ 45		MCS > 45 & ≤ 50		MCS > 50			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	Chi square	Sig
Physical										
Ever in relationship	13	21.3	9	14.8	5	8.2	34	55.7	24.016	.000
Last 12 months	9	40.9	4	18.2	2	9.1	7	31.8	42.170	.000
Sexual	2	15.4	4	30.8	2	15.4	5	38.5	11.666	.009
Non-physical										
Economic	5	25.0	4	20.0	1	5.0	13	50.0	13.849	.003
Psychological	19	16.4	15	12.9	14	12.1	68	58.6	24.676	.000
Social-psychological	21	20.6	15	14.7	11	10.8	55	53.9	41.645	.000
Non-physical	27	16.2	21	12.6	18	10.8	101	60.5	35.558	.000

Again, using Gill et al's (2007) proposed cut-off scores, logistic regression indicates the following chances of severe psychological symptomatology and/or depression among women who experienced the various forms of abuse from their current partner.

Physical abuse at any stage of the current relationship:

- 7.3 times more likely to show evidence of severe psychological symptomatology (OR=7.348, (CI 5.037, 10.720), Wald (df=1) =107.151, $p<.001$), and
- 2.9 times more likely to show evidence of depression (OR=2.955, (CI 1.953, 4.469), Wald (df=1) 26.323, $p<.001$).

Physical abuse in the last 12 months:

- 21 times more likely to show evidence of severe psychological symptomatology (OR=21.277 (CI 10.996, 41.170), Wald (df=1) 82.422, $p<.001$), and
- 4.2 times more likely to show evidence of depression (OR=4.239, (CI 1.752, 10.253), Wald (df=1) 10.270, $p<.001$).

Sexual abuse:

- 17.5 times more likely to show evidence of severe psychological symptomatology (OR=17.503 (CI 6.472, 47.339), Wald (df=1) 31.796, $p<.05$), and
- 6.1 times more likely to show evidence of depression (OR=6.113, (CI 1.846, 20.242), Wald (df=1) 8.781, $p<.05$).

Economic abuse:

- 6.9 times more likely to show evidence of severe psychological symptomatology (OR=6.949 (CI 4.099, 11.782), Wald (df=1) 51.793, $p=.006$), and
- 3.0 times more likely to show evidence of depression (OR=3.079, (CI 1.653, 5.734), Wald (df=1) 12.568, $p=.001$).

Psychological abuse:

- 5.3 times more likely to show evidence of severe psychological symptomatology (OR=5.361 (CI 3.798, 7.567), Wald (df=1) 91.151, $p<.001$), and
- 2.8 times more likely to show evidence of depression (OR=2.801, (CI 2.008, 3.909), Wald (df=1) 36.740, $p<.001$).

Social-psychological abuse:

- 5.0 times more likely to show evidence of severe psychological symptomatology (OR=5.028 (CI 3.530, 7.162), Wald (df=1) 80.070, $p<.001$), and
- 2.1 times more likely to show evidence of depression (OR=2.170, (CI 1.492, 3.155), Wald (df=1) 16.456, $p<.001$).

Any form of non-physical abuse:

- 4.9 times more likely to show evidence of severe psychological symptomatology (OR=4.916 (CI 3.475, 6.954), Wald (df=1) 81.002, $p<.001$), and
- 2.8 times more likely to show evidence of depression (OR=2.894 (CI 2.102, 3.985), Wald (df=1) 42.400, $p<.001$).

3.7 Help seeking among women who experienced abuse

Women participating in the study who indicated they had experienced some form of intimate partner abuse were asked if they were aware of any support or counselling services available in their locality; and if they had ever sought assistance from any such services. Among the total 849 women who had experienced some form of intimate partner abuse, 524 (61.7%) were aware of counselling/support services available in their locality, but only 162 (31%) of them sought assistance from one of these services. The proportion of women who experienced physical abuse, and those who experienced non-physical abuse, were aware of the services, but a greater proportion of women who had been physically abused had sought help (38%, compared to just 28% of the women who had experienced non-physical abuse).

As shown, in Table 3.46, among the 243 women who experienced physical abuse, 150 (61.7%) knew of support available, but only 57 (38%) sought assistance from one of these services. That is, over 60% of the women who had been physically abused, and who knew of support services available, did not seek help from a support service.

Table 3.46 Awareness of, and assistance sought by experience of physical abuse

	Yes	No	Total
Aware	150 (61.7)	93 (38.3)	243 (100%)
Sought assistance	57 (38.0)	93 (62.0)	150 (100%)

As shown, in Table 3.47, among the 610 women who reported non-physical abuse, 374 (61.3%) were aware of counselling/support services available in their locality, but only 105 (17.2%) sought assistance from one of these services. That is, over 70% of the women who had experienced non-physical abuse, and who knew of support services available, did not seek help from a support service.

Table 3.47 Awareness of, and assistance sought by experience of non-physical abuse

	Yes	No	Total
Aware	374 (61.5)	234 (38.5)	608 + 2 “don’t know” (100%)
Sought assistance	105 (28.1)	269 (71.9)	374 (100%)

3.8 Reasons help was not sought by women who experienced abuse

The women who had experienced abuse and were aware of services but did not use them were asked why they had not sought help. Fifty-nine (39.3%) of the 150 women who had been physically abused, were aware of services and did not seek help did not respond to this question. Of the 91 one women in this group who did respond to the question, 80 (88%) said they did not need the services. Some of them added that they talk with family, friends, a doctor, psychologist or others about the issues; and others said the abuse was not serious enough. Two of the women in this group said they did not have time to go to counselling and other reasons given for not seeking help include:

“I don’t want to burden anyone else with my problems”;

“They don’t offer long term help, only interim support and no help financially” and

“I was too embarrassed”.

Within the group of 269 women who had experienced non-physical abuse, and were aware of services but did not use them, 258 women provided a reason for not seeking help. Of those who responded, 234 (90.7%) felt they did not need the services, and some of the women in this group made comments similar to those made by the women who had been physically abused. Of the reminder, seven (2.7%) felt the abuse was not serious enough. Five said they did not have time to go to a service, and other single responses included:

“It’s usually only a day here or there that you are down”; and

“I got used to being abused. It’s a cycle, and I would know what was coming; family and friends were there for me”.

Chapter 4: Comparative analysis and discussion

The discussion in the first part of this chapter will focus on a comparison of the results of this study with the results of the earlier study on intimate partner abuse in the Bowen Basin and Mackay region of Central Queensland (Nancarrow, Lockie and Sharma 2008), hereafter referred to as “the Bowen Basin” study. The discussion will be limited to the socio-demographic, relational and behavioural variables for which a statistically significant correlation with experience of abuse was found. The second part of the chapter briefly discusses the results of the comparative analysis and their implications in the current policy context.

Part 1: Comparison of results for Queensland and Bowen Basin studies

4.1.1 Prevalence of abuse

In this study on intimate partner abuse of women in Queensland, just over 13% (243) of 1,857 women had been physically abused (including 1.5% who reported sexual abuse) by their current male partner at some time during the relationship. Of those, 7.7% reported that they had been physically or sexually abused by their partner in the previous 12 months. Further, at least one form of non-physical abuse was reported by 33% of the women in the Queensland-wide study.

Similar, though slightly lower, percentages were found in the study of intimate partner abuse in the Bowen Basin region of Central Queensland (Nancarrow et al 2008). In that study, 11.5% of 532 women reported physical abuse (including 2.4% who reported sexual abuse); and 4.1% reported that the abuse had occurred in the previous 12 months. Thirty-one point four percent of the women in the Bowen Basin sample reported at least one form of non-physical violence.

Table 4.1, below shows the comparison of results for the whole of Queensland and for the Bowen Basin studies. Physical abuse includes sexual abuse, and for non-physical forms of abuse percentages are reported for all non-physical abuse, followed by cases where one form of non-physical abuse, alone, was reported.

Table 4.1 Comparison of results on experience of abuse: Queensland compared to Bowen Basin

Type of abuse	Queensland (%)	Bowen Basin (%)
Physical	13.1	11.5
Non-physical	33	31.4
• psychological abuse	25	21.8
• social-psychological	18.5	19.2
• economic	5.4	3.8

4.1.2 Socio-demographic correlates of intimate partner abuse

Marital status and length of relationship

In this study of intimate partner abuse of women in Queensland, 87% of the women were married and the remainder were living in a de facto relationship with their male partner. Nearly three quarters (73%) of the married women in the Queensland study had been in the relationship for more than 15 years, while three-quarters of the women in de facto relationships had been in the relationship for less than 15 years: in fact, one-third (31.1%) of the women in de facto relationships in the Queensland study had been in the relationship less than five years, compared to just 4.9% of the married women who had been in the relationship less than five years.

While the same proportion (87%) of women in both the Queensland-wide study and the earlier study on intimate partner abuse in the Bowen Basin region were married, very different results were found for the two groups of women in relation to marital status and the length of the relationship. For example, as illustrated in Table 4.2, below, in this Queensland study half (50.7%) of the married women's relationships were longer than 25 years, compared to less than a third (30.8%) of the married women in the Bowen Basin study.

In Queensland, just under one-third (31.1%) of the de facto relationships were less than five years old, compared to more than half (57.7%) of the de facto relationships in the Bowen Basin study.

Table 4.2 Marital status and length of relationship for Queensland compared to Bowen Basin

Marital status and length of relationship (in years)	Queensland (%)	Bowen Basin (%)
<i>Married</i>		
Less than 5	4.9	4.6
5-15	22.1	35.8
15-25	22.3	28.9
25+	50.7	30.8
<i>De facto</i>		
Less than 5	31.1	57.7
5-15	44.7	31
15-25	17.0	8.5
25+	7.2	2.8

Some, but not all of this difference may be accounted for by the difference of approximately 6 years in the average age of participants in the two studies. For the Queensland-wide study the average age of the women was 48.7 years, and for their partners it was 51.3 years; and for the Bowen Basin study, the average age of the women was 42.7 years, and for their partners it was 44.6 years.

Both the Queensland-wide and the Bowen Basin studies showed that women in de facto relationships were at least twice as likely as married women to be physically abused and approximately twice as likely to experience non-physical abuse. In regard to social-

psychological abuse, women in the Queensland study who were in de facto relationships were nearly two times more likely than the married women to experience such abuse, while their counterparts in the Bowen Basin study were nearly three times more likely to experience this form of abuse.

While the Bowen Basin study found no correlation between physical abuse and length of relationship, the Queensland-wide study found that women whose relationship was less than five years old, were four times more likely, compared to women in relationships more than 15 years old, to have experienced physical abuse in the previous 12 months; and for those whose relationships were between five and 15 years, the odds were two times greater. Both studies found a statistically significant correlation between experiences of non-physical abuse and relationships of less than 15 years, compared to those over 15 years in lengths. This was particularly so for social-psychological abuse. In Queensland, women with less than five years in the current relationship were two times more likely to have experienced social-psychological abuse, compared to women in relationships at least 15 years old; and for women in relationships between five and 15 years old, the odds were 1.2 times. Women in these circumstances in the Bowen Basin region were at even greater (in fact double) risk of social-psychological abuse. In that study, women with less than five years in the relationship were four times more likely to experience social-psychological abuse and the odds were 2.4 times for women in a relationship five to 15 years in length, compared to women in relationships over 15 years in length.

Age and experience of abuse

Both the Queensland and Bowen Basin region studies on intimate partner abuse showed that women under the age of 30 years are at considerably greater risk of physical and non-physical intimate partner abuse, than women in older age groups. In Queensland, women less than 30 years of age were three times more likely than older women to report that physical abuse had occurred in the previous 12 months, while the odds for the women in the Bowen Basin region of physical abuse in the previous 12 months were 4.4 times greater than for older women. Women less than 30 years old, in both studies, were just under 2.5 times more likely to experience social-psychological abuse and about 1.5 times more likely than older women to experience any form of non-physical abuse. While the Queensland study found no statistically significant correlation between age and experience of physical abuse (other than for physical abuse in the previous 12 months, as discussed above), the Bowen Basin study found that women aged less than 30 years were twice as likely to have experienced some form of physical abuse, at some time in the relationship, than were older women.

Level of education

Women who were partnered to men with high school education, only, were found in both studies to be more likely to have experienced physical abuse in the previous 12 months (nearly 1.5 times more likely for women in the Queensland study and nearly five times more likely for women in the Bowen Basin study) than were women whose partners had higher levels of education. In Queensland, women whose partners had lower levels of education were also 1.3 times more likely than women whose partners had higher levels of education to have experienced psychological abuse and nearly two times more likely to have experienced social-psychological abuse. The results were remarkably similar in the Bowen

Basin study with the odds being 1.5 times more likely for psychological abuse and 1.9 times for social-psychological abuse.

Children living at home

While the Queensland study found no statistically significant correlation between the experience of any form of abuse and having children living at home, the Bowen Basin study did find some. Specifically, the Bowen Basin study found that women who had children living at home were nearly three (2.8) times more likely to experience social-psychological abuse; and if there were three or more children living at home the odds of experiencing this form of abuse were nearly four (3.8) times greater than for women who had no children living at home.

Employment status

Of the working population in the Queensland-wide sample, less than half (44.2%) of the working women were employed full time, while 90.9% of their partners were working full time. The figures for the Bowen Basin sample were 39.9% of women and 97.1% of their partners, working full time.

The proportion of unemployed women, and their male partners, looking for work was slightly higher in the Queensland-wide sample (4.2% of the unemployed women; and 5.3% of the unemployed male partners) than the Bowen Basin sample (2.3% of the women; and 4.5% of the male partners). Of the unemployed population in the Queensland-wide sample, 47.5% of the women, and 86.9% of their male partners, were “retired” or on a “pension”. This was the biggest single category of unemployment for both the women, and their partners, in this sample. For the Bowen Basin sample, however, the biggest single category of unemployment for the women was “home duties”, reported by 62.8% of the women (and none of their male partners) in that sample.

Twenty percent fewer women in the Queensland-wide sample (42.2%) reported “home duties” as their employment status. Again, some of this 20% difference may be attributed to the women in the Bowen Basin sample having a lower average age, and possibly having younger children living at home, than their Queensland-wide counterparts.

Table 4.3 Employment status for Queensland compared to Bowen Basin

	Queensland				Bowen Basin			
	<i>Women</i>		<i>Partners</i>		<i>Women</i>		<i>Partners</i>	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Employed								
Full-time	456	44.2	1256	90.9	125	39.9	474	97.1
Part time	407	39.3	79	5.7	125	39.9	8	1.6
Casual	170	16.5	47	3.4	63	20.1	6	1.2
Total employed	1,033	100	1382	100	313	100	488	100
Unemployed								
Looking for work	35	4.2	25	5.3	5	2.3	2	4.5
Not looking for work	34	4.1	17	3.6	18	8.3	2	4.5
Retired/pension	391	47.5	413	86.9	46	21.1	37	84.1
Student	14	1.7	4	0.8	4	1.8	0	0.0
Home duties	348	42.2	14	2.9	137	62.8	0	0.0
Don't know	1	0.1	1	0.2	6	2.8	1	2.3
No response	1	0.1	1	0.2	2	0.9	2	4.5
Total unemployed	824	100	475	100	218	100	44	100

Employment and type of industry

With the exception of social-psychological abuse, there were no statistically significant correlations between abuse and type of industry in which women in the Queensland-wide sample, or their partners, were employed. While 18.5% of the women in the overall sample reported social-psychological abuse, 29.2% of the women who worked in mining themselves, and 14.8% of the women whose partners worked in mining, reported this form of abuse. Logistic regression shows that women partnered to men in the mining industry were 1.6 times more likely to have experienced social psychological abuse.

Similar results were found in the Bowen Basin study, where social-psychological abuse was the only form of abuse to be correlated with type of industry, and in this case it was also the mining industry. In the Bowen Basin study, 19.2% of the overall sample, 37% of the women who worked in mining themselves, and 23.5% of the women whose partners worked in mining, reported this form of abuse. Logistic regression analysis showed that the odds of experiencing social-psychological abuse increased by a factor of 1.8 (OR=1.777, $p<0.05$) if her partner worked in mining, and 3.5 (OR=3.519, $p<0.05$) if the woman lived in Mackay and her partner worked in the mining industry (suggesting an amplified risk for women whose partners commuted substantial distances and were required to be away from the home for extended periods of time).

4.1.3 Relational correlates

Division of household labour

Logistic regression shows that women solely or mostly responsible for the care for children were 2.7 times more likely to experience any non-physical abuse and 2.4 times more likely to experience psychological abuse. Again the results were similar for the Bowen Basin study with this aspect of the division of household labour being the only one correlated with

experience of abuse. In the Bowen Basin sample, women who were solely or mostly responsible for the care of the children were 2.4 times more likely to experience any non-physical abuse (OR=2.421, $p<0.001$) and 1.8 times more likely to experience psychological abuse (OR=1.883, $p<0.02$). However, the women who were solely or mostly responsible for the care of the children in the Bowen Basin study were also at significantly greater risk of physical abuse (with odds increased by a factor of 2; OR=2.143, $P<0.03$) and social-psychological abuse (odds increased by a factor of 3.2; OR=3.251, $p<0.001$).

4.1.4 Behavioural correlates

Smoking tobacco

In the Queensland-wide study, women who smoked tobacco were 1.2 times more likely to experience economic abuse; and those whose partners smoked tobacco, were 2.7 times more likely to experience sexual abuse, 4.6 times more likely to have experienced physical abuse in the previous 12 months and 2.1 times more likely to have experienced social-psychological abuse.

The results of the Bowen Basin study showed statistically significant correlations between a greater number of types of abuse and both smoking by the women in the sample, and smoking by their male partners. In the case of the Bowen Basin study, women who smoked were 3.7 times more likely to have experienced economic abuse (OR=3.68, $p=0.005$); 1.6 times more likely to have experienced psychological abuse (OR=1.639, $p<0.05$); 2.3 times more likely to have experienced social-psychological abuse (OR=2.311, $p=0.001$), and 2.1 times more likely to have experienced non-physical abuse (OR=2.161, $p=0.001$).

The Bowen Basin women whose partners smoked were 2.7 times more likely to have experienced abuse at some time in the current relationship (OR=2.701, $p<0.001$); 4.6 times more likely to have experienced physical abuse in the last 12 months (OR =4.644, $p=0.001$); 3.1 times more likely to have experienced economic abuse (OR=3.129, $p<0.05$); 2.1 times more likely to have experienced social-psychological abuse (OR=2.183 $p=0.001$), and 2 times more likely to have reported at least one form of non-physical abuse (OR =2.023, $p=0.001$).

Alcohol consumption

In this study, women partnered to men who were classified “risky drinkers” were nearly two times more likely to have experienced physical abuse, 1.5 times more likely to have experienced social-psychological abuse and 1.8 times more likely to have experienced economic abuse than those whose partners were not risky drinkers. The results for the Bowen Basin study were very similar in relation to partners’ risky drinking and women having experienced physical abuse, with the women in that sample twice as likely to have experienced such abuse (OR=2.074, $p<0.05$). The Bowen Basin study did not find a statistically significant correlation between risky drinking and social- psychological abuse, or economic abuse, as did the Queensland-wide study; however, it found that women whose partners were risky drinkers were 1.6 times more likely to experience psychological abuse (OR=1.609, $p<0.05$).

Consumption of drugs

In Queensland women's use of cannabis and their partners' use of cannabis were both correlated with women having experienced various forms of abuse. Logistic regression showed that where women reported having used cannabis, themselves, they were nearly two times more likely to have experienced non-physical abuse at some time in their current relationship (OR=1.713, $p<0.05$). Where women reported their partners used cannabis, they were two and a half times more likely to have experienced physical and sexual abuse at some time in their relationship (OR=2.655, $p<0.05$) and five times more likely to have experienced physical and sexual abuse in the last 12 months (OR=5.111, $p<0.05$).

The Bowen Basin study found women's use of cannabis at least twice a month, and their male partners' use of cannabis at least twice a month were both correlated with women having experienced various forms of abuse. Where the women reported having used cannabis at least twice a month, themselves, logistic regression showed they were nearly five times more likely than other women to have experienced physical abuse at some time in the relationship (OR=4.821, $p<0.05$); more than four times more likely to have experienced social-psychological abuse (OR=4.347, $p<0.05$), and nearly seven times more likely to have experienced non-physical abuse from their current partners (OR=6.764, $p<0.05$). Where women reported their partners used cannabis at least twice a month or more they were: nearly 21 times more likely than other women to have experienced physical abuse (OR=20.937, $p=0.00$); over 10 times more likely to have experienced physical abuse in the last 12 months (OR=10.100, $p<0.05$); over nine times more likely to have experienced psychological abuse (OR=9.324, $p=0.008$), and five times more likely to have experienced non-physical abuse (OR=5.062, $p<0.05$).

4.1.5 Reasons women continue in abusive relationships

Women in both the Queensland-wide and the Bowen Basin studies consistently stated, in almost equal proportions, the most influential factors in their decisions to remain in an abusive relationship were: the desire to give the relationship another try, love, the resolution of problems and concern for children. This is illustrated in table 4.4, below.

Table 4.4 Comparison of most influential reasons for continuing abusive relationship

Reasons	Queensland-wide	Bowen Basin & Mackay
	%	%
Wanted to give relationship another try	61.6	60.8
I still love my partner	58.9	60.8
Resolved problems with partner	56.2	51.0
For the sake of children	43.8	41.2
Partner promised to change	21.9	33.3
Felt that abuse was not serious enough	45.9	19.6
Feeling like I have nowhere to go	24.7	19.6
Lack of financial security/independence	28.8	13.7
Lack of confidence to live independently	23.3	13.7
Feeling ashamed	16.4	9.8

As seen in table 4.4 above, just under half (45.9%) of the women in the Queensland-wide sample said that feeling that the abuse was not serious enough was very influential in their decision to stay, compared to just under one-fifth (19.6%) of the women in the Bowen Basin sample. However, just under 10% (9.8%) of the women in the Bowen Basin sample did not know, or did not respond to the question about the degree of influence the seriousness of abuse had in relation to their decision to remain in an abusive relationship, compared to only 1.4% of the women in the Queensland-wide study. The proportion of women in each sample, who reported that the seriousness of the abuse had no influence, was similar, though slightly higher for women in the Bowen Basin study (27.4% Queensland-wide and 31.4% for the Bowen Basin sample). Therefore, the results remain broadly consistent when (and where known) any influence, and no influence, are considered, as shown in the table below.

Table 4.5 Comparison of degree of influence of reasons for continuing abusive relationship

Reasons	Queensland-wide		Bowen Basin & Mackay	
	<i>Any influence</i> %	<i>No influence</i> %	<i>Any influence</i> %	<i>No influence</i> %
Wanted to give relationship another try	79.4	17.1	84.3	3.9
I still love my partner	81.5	16.4	84.3	7.8
Resolved problems with partner	81.5	17.1	78.5	13.7
For the sake of children	62.3	30.8	54.9	27.5
Partner promised to change	56.2	41.1	56.8	29.4
Felt that abuse was not serious enough	71.3	27.4	47.1	31.4
Feeling like I have nowhere to go	42.5	55.5	39.2	52.9
Lack of financial security/independence	43.1	55.5	33.3	56.9
Lack of confidence to live independently	43.9	54.8	25.5	64.7
Feeling ashamed	36.3	61.6	15.7	78.4

4.1.6 Health status of women

While both the Queensland-wide and the Bowen Basin studies showed intimate partner abuse had no statistically significant bearing on the overall physical health of women at the population level, they both showed that all forms of intimate partner abuse had substantial bearing on women's mental health and well-being. Women in the Queensland-wide study who reported abuse were between two and 21 times more likely than those women in the sample who had not experienced abuse, to suffer depression or severe psychological symptomatology. Women in the Bowen Basin study were between 3.6 and 13.4 times more likely to suffer depression or severe psychological symptomatology, if they had experienced some type of intimate partner abuse. This is illustrated in table 4.6, below.

Table 4.6: Odds ratio for severe psychological symptomatology (SPS) and depression associated with intimate partner abuse

Type of abuse	Queensland-wide		Bowen Basin	
	SPS	Depression	SPS	Depression
Physical abuse	7.3	2.9	4.4	3.7
Physical abuse in previous year	21	4.2	10.7	8.8
Sexual abuse	17.5	6.1	-	4.8
Economic abuse	6.9	3.0	4.5	4.7
Psychological abuse	5.3	2.8	3.7	3.0
Social-psychological abuse	5.0	2.1	5.6	4.2
Any non-physical abuse	4.9	2.8	5.2	3.6

4.1.7 Help seeking among women who experienced abuse

A slightly lower proportion (61.7%) of the women in the Queensland-wide sample who had experienced physical abuse were aware of available supports services, compared to their counterparts in the Bowen Basin sample (63.9%). However, a substantially higher proportion of the women in the Queensland sample (38%) sought help, than those in the Bowen Basin study (26.2%). The pattern was similar, though the difference not as substantial, for non-physical abuse. In that case, 61.7% of the women in the Queensland-wide sample were aware of available support services, compared to 64.7% of the Bowen Basin women; and 28.1% of the Queensland-wide sample who were aware of support services, sought help, compared to 22.8% of the Bowen Basin sample.

Table 4.7 Awareness of services, and assistance sought, by experience of physical abuse

	Queensland wide (n=243)			Bowen Basin & Mackay		
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
Aware	150 (61.7)	93 (38.3)	243 (100%)	39 (63.9)	19 (31.1)	58 + 3 'don't know' (100%)
Sought help	57 (38.0)	93 (62.0)	150 (100%)	16 (26.2)	23 (73.8)	39 (100%)

Table 4.8 Awareness of services, and assistance sought, by experience of non-physical abuse

	Queensland wide (n=243)			Bowen Basin & Mackay		
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
Aware	374 (61.7)	234 (38.5)	608 (100%)	108 (64.7)	53 (31.7)	161 + 6 'don't know' (100%)
Sought help	105 (28.1)	269 (71.9)	374 (100%)	38 (22.8%)	70 (77.2%)	108 (100%)

Part 2: Discussion of results and policy and practice implications

4.2.1 Prevalence

The results of two Queensland based studies, one the primary subject of this report and the other the Bowen Basin study (Nancarrow et al 2008), confirm that both physical and non-physical intimate partner abuse of women is prevalent in Queensland. In fact, the results show a slightly higher percentage of Queensland women report physical abuse by their current intimate male partner, than the percentage of women reporting such abuse in a similar national study (Mouzos and Makkai 2004), comprising the Australian component of the International Violence against Women Survey (IVAWS).

Mouzos and Makkai (2004) found that 10% of the 5,074 women in their sample of women in current intimate partner relationships with men had experienced physical abuse, while this Queensland-wide study found 13% of the sample had experienced such abuse; and the Bowen Basin study found 11.5% of the women in that sample had been physically abused. Further, 7.7% of the women in the Queensland-wide study reported they had been physically or sexually abused by their partner in the previous 12 months, compared to 4.1% of the women in the Bowen Basin study, and 3% in the IVAWS.

At least one form of non-physical abuse was reported by 33% of the women in the Queensland-wide study, 31.4% in the Bowen Basin and 37-40% in the IVAWS.

Only a small percentage of the women in this Queensland-wide study who had experienced non-physical abuse reported that the abuse was 'always' or 'often'. This chronic, rather than acute, nature of the abuse has previously been reported as a significant factor in women's decisions to remain in abusive relationships (Partnerships against Domestic Violence 1999):

"The fact that for some women, the abuse was intermittent rather than a regular occurrence, or that their partner expressed regret or sorrow ... resulted in there being more 'emotional hooks' to keep them tied to the relationship ..." (p. 25)

"He wasn't abusive all the time. He was a really good father. I just kept hoping that things would get better" (p. 27).

4.2.2 Correlates of intimate partner abuse

Geographic location

Although a slightly higher percentage of women in rural areas of Queensland (38%) reported abuse compared to women in the rest of Queensland (35%), there was no statistically significant correlation between the geographic location of women and the experience of any form of abuse. While a regional analysis (Henstridge et al 2007) of the *Personal Safety Survey 2005* (ABS 2006), found that "Prevalence rates of all types of violence, towards both women and men, were higher in major urban areas, followed by outer regional and remote areas. The lowest prevalence rates were in inner regional areas" (p. 11), others (WESNET 2000, Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics 2006), have

identified higher rates of reported domestic violence in rural and remote areas of Australia. The WESNET (2000) report, particularly, is widely cited as evidence of higher rates of domestic violence in rural and remote communities. These analyses were based on data from services for women escaping domestic violence, funded under the Specialist Homelessness Division (formerly, Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP)), which was the only consistent national data available on domestic violence and including information about geographic location, at the time. Under this program data regarding “support periods” provided to women and their children escaping domestic violence were provided to the SAAP National Data Collection Agency. One “support period” was counted for the time a woman was accommodated in a SAAP funded accommodation service and, or, was provided with outreach support by that service.

The number of “support periods” provided by SAAP funded services would be influenced by factors such as availability of alternative options and the nature of the support services needed, and provided, for various groups of women in various locations. For example, in the 1990s women in regional and remote Aboriginal communities successfully lobbied for the establishment of “safe houses” as an alternative to the conventional women’s refuge model. They argued for a place to go for immediate safety at times of crisis, or in anticipation of violence, which may be needed for only one or two nights for each “support period”. The conventional women’s refuge model anticipated women staying for up to three months, although the length of stay may range from one night to three months (or more in some cases). Therefore, the safe house model could provide many more “support periods” within the same period of time because of the higher turn-over of clients. Further, there are more likely to be alternatives to SAAP funded services available to women in urban communities, compared to regional and remote communities, so women escaping violence in urban areas may be distributed across a range of accommodation (including private) options. In summary, SAAP data is not an adequate measure of the incidence, or prevalence, of domestic violence.

Subsequently, Hastings and MacLean (2002) have claimed that “the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research demonstrates higher rates per population of domestic violence ... occurring in rural areas than metropolitan” (p.3) and expands on this in a footnote, with the statement “[d]uring 1998 and 1999, the Far West, North West and Mid-North Coast statistical divisions demonstrated significantly higher recorded rates of Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders granted by Local Courts than Sydney statistical division” (p.3). While the paper does not provide the actual figures for Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders (AVOs), official reported crime statistics are widely recognised as inadequate measures of incidence or prevalence of violence against women. There are several possible explanations for the higher rates of AVOs in the rural areas identified by Hastings and MacLean, above, including that there may be: fewer alternative options for women in rural communities; a higher rate of cross-orders (where each party is granted an AVO against the other); higher visibility of violence to police; effective advocacy and support (such as that provided by Hastings and MacLean, themselves, who are “Regional Violence Prevention Specialists with the New South Wales (NSW) Strategy to Reduce Violence Against Women and are both working in rural NSW” (Hastings and MacLean 2002, p.1).

Nevertheless, a substantial proportion of women in rural and remote communities experience intimate partner abuse and they face additional barriers associated with isolation and rural lifestyle; particularly for women living on geographically isolated properties (e.g. see WESNET 2000, Hogg & Carrington 2003, Wendt 2009). A number of recent initiatives have attempted to address some of the issues associated with geographic isolation.

DVConnect, Queensland's 24 hour state-wide domestic violence telephone service provides increased access for women to crisis intervention and referral. DVConnect refers to a range of services, including women's refuges, and can provide short-term hotel accommodation if there is no refuge available. DVConnect also has some capacity to fund evacuation for women, and their children, if there are no safe alternatives available in their community. On average, 2 women and their children are evacuated each week and at times this involves evacuation from remote islands in the Torres Strait. This is particularly costly because of the need to charter a plane (and on occasions, a helicopter) to get women and children to safety, and funds available annually are quickly expended. Such evacuations are not only costly to service providers, but have enormous social costs for the women and their children, with disruption to their informal support networks, education and other aspects of their lives.

The Queensland Government has recently trialled a "safety upgrades" initiative on the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast, in Townsville and as part of the Rockhampton trial integrated response to domestic and family violence. The safety upgrades initiative provides funds for increased security (including a safety audit and items identified as necessary by the safety audit such as lighting, locks, surveillance cameras and mobile phones) to enable victims of violence to remain safely in their own homes rather than having to re-locate. This initiative responds to *The Road Home*, the national policy on reducing homelessness (Australian Government 2008) and the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children* (Australian Government 2011). Based on the success of the trial, the initiative has, from August 2011, been extended to include Mt Isa, Emerald, Brisbane's northern outskirts and Ipswich.

Following the release of *Time for Action: the National Council's Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children* (National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2009), the Australian Government established the national telephone and on-line counselling service "1800 RESPECT". It also provides crisis intervention where that is not already available (for example, Queensland's DVConnect provides crisis intervention and referral, so calls from Queensland are diverted to DVConnect); and its services will expand in 2011 to provide professional support, such as debriefing and supervision, to staff from small and isolated services which deal with people who have experienced physical or sexual violence.

While these initiatives have improved the availability of services to women in rural communities, and reduced the impact of intimate partner abuse in some communities, more needs to be done in regard to *primary* prevention (building a culture and environments where intimate partner abuse cannot flourish) across Queensland, and *secondary* prevention (assisting victims of abuse to get immediate intervention, and

constraining, and holding accountable, the perpetrators of abuse), particularly in rural and remote parts of the State.

Socio-demographics

The findings of both the Queensland-wide and the Bowen Basin studies of increased risk of various forms of intimate partner abuse for women aged less than 30 years, is inconsistent with the results of the PSS 2005 (ABS 2006), which shows that women between 45 and 55 years of age are at greatest risk of violence perpetrated by a current intimate partner. However, the findings are consistent with the results of the IVAWS (Mouzos and Makkai 2004). Henstridge et al (2007) also note this difference between the results of the IVAWS and the PSS and postulate two possible explanations. The first of these is that, because IVAWS included dating relationships as well as people in married and de facto relationships in their definition of 'intimate partner', the difference may be explained by the wider range of relationship types included in the IVAWS. The second is that narrower definition of violence used in the PSS¹² could, possibly explain the different findings. Since the Queensland-wide and the Bowen Basin studies did not include dating relations in the sample of women in current intimate partner relationships, but they used the same definitions of intimate partner violence (physical and non-physical) as the IVAWS, it seems more likely that the different findings of the IVAWS (and the Queensland-wide and the Bowen Basin studies) and the PSS can be attributed to different definitions of intimate partner violence.

Given that all forms of abuse included in the definition of intimate partner violence used by IVAWS and the Queensland-wide and Bowen Basin studies were correlated with increased risk of depression and /or severe psychological symptomatology, the broader definition used in these studies is not only justified, but important. However, while the increased risk for women aged less than 30 years of certain types of intimate partner abuse is consistently demonstrated in the IVAWS as well as this Queensland-wide study and the Bowen Basin study, the PSS demonstrates the need to ensure the increased risk for middle-aged women of certain types of intimate partner violence (actual and threatened physical and sexual violence) is not overlooked.

Strategies aimed at primary and secondary prevention of intimate partner abuse must, therefore, be tailored to women (and their male partners) of various age groups. They must also emphasise the harmful effects of all types of abuse – physical and non-physical – on mental health, and encourage discussion of the abuse with health professionals to avoid the symptoms of the abuse, alone, being addressed while the abuse continues.

¹² The PSS defines 'violence' as any incident involving the occurrence, attempt or threat of either physical or sexual assault. Non-physical abuse is excluded, altogether, and physical violence is limited to 'use of physical force with intent to harm or frighten', and attempt or threat of violence is only included if the target believes it is likely to be carried out. The PSS definition of 'sexual assault' excludes unwanted sexual touching – it requires the use of physical force, intimidation, coercion, or threats. For further details see the ABS Personal Safety Survey Cat. No. 4906.0.

The only other socio-demographic characteristics correlated with experiences of abuse in both the Queensland-wide and the Bowen Basin studies¹³ were lower education level of the male partners, and the mining industry. Women whose partners had high school education only were more likely to have experienced physical abuse in the previous 12 months and this risk was particularly high for women in the Bowen Basin study. Women in both studies were also at greater risk of psychological abuse and social-psychological abuse if their partners had high school education only.

These findings highlight the importance of early respectful relationships education, as recommended by the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (2009), and provided for in the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (Australian Government 2011).

Women who worked in mining themselves, and women partnered to men working in mining, were significantly more likely to experience social-psychological abuse (that is, jealous, possessive and socially controlling behaviour). Although there were factors other than mining that were more strongly correlated with intimate partner abuse, or which affected a greater number of women, there is clearly a role for mining communities, and the mining industry itself, to play in the prevention of intimate partner abuse through programs that promote respectful relationships and reject male domination and control over women.

Behavioural factors

As expected, based on the results of the Bowen Basin study, this research shows a statistically significant correlation between women's experience of intimate partner abuse and use of tobacco and cannabis; and, also expected from other research including the Bowen Basin study, between women's experience of intimate partner abuse and excessive alcohol consumption. While other research (VicHealth 2004) has identified the relationship between women's experiences of intimate partner abuse and their use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and numerous studies have discussed the relationship between alcohol and men's violence, very little is known about the relationships between men's use of cannabis and their use of violence in intimate partner relationships. This is an area requiring further research and analysis.

4.2.3 Reasons women continue in abusive relationships

As reported in the Bowen Basin study, the range of influences on women to remain in an abusive relationship can be construed as motivations for remaining in, or constraints against leaving, the relationship. While a number of constraining factors had some influence on women leaving abusive relationships, it is evident that the love women have for their partners and their commitment to their relationships take priority over their own well-being. Strategies aimed at reducing intimate partner abuse and ameliorating its effects, need to recognise this and support the development of interventions that increase physical

¹³ The Bowen Basin study did find that having children living at home was correlated with social-psychological abuse and the risk increased with a greater number of children. In the Queensland-wide study having children living at home was only correlated with experience of abuse if the woman was solely or mostly responsible for the care of the children. In both studies, this was the only aspect of the division of household labour correlated with abuse.

and psychological safety for women who choose to remain in abusive relationships. Equally important is the need to educate men who abuse their intimate partners about the harmful effects and unacceptability of such abuse. This may include broad-based community awareness campaigns as well as more targeted individual intervention.

Given that many of the women said they were able to get the support they need from family, friends, doctors and psychologists to deal with the abuse, these groups have an important role to play in effectively supporting abused women, but also in challenging the men who use abusive behaviour against their partners. Intervention in intimate partner abuse is complex and can be difficult; even dangerous. Recent innovations in Queensland including the Queensland Government's *Act as 1* campaign have provided information for families and friends about how best to respond when someone discloses domestic or family violence (see <http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/communityservices/act-as-1>). These initiatives need to be further developed to ensure that a wider range of professionals have relevant knowledge and skills to respond to intimate partner abuse when they receive referrals from family and friends of those who are subjected to intimate partner abuse. The development of specialised skills within mainstream services is particularly important, given the reluctance of women to access specialist domestic and family violence support services as they believe they do not need specialist services because other professionals (e.g. doctors and psychologists) are able to address their needs. In addition, not all communities have access to a specialised domestic and family violence support services (other than the state-wide domestic and family violence telephone service DVConnect), so some abused women will need to rely more on mainstream services than specialised domestic and family violence services. Equal state-wide access to effective responses to intimate partner abuse is dependent on quality training for a wide range of professionals in the local community.

Chapter 5: Conclusion

This Queensland-wide study of the abuse of women by their current intimate male partner found that 13.1% of the 1,857 participants had experienced some form of physical abuse (including the 1.5% who had been sexually assaulted) and for 7.7% of the women the abuse had occurred in the 12 months prior to the survey. Of the total sample, 33% had experienced some form of non-physical abuse at some time in their current relationship.

The experience of intimate partner abuse, both physical and non-physical forms, was correlated with a number of socio-demographic and behavioural factors. Women under 30 years of age and in relationships of less than five years' duration were particularly at risk of physical abuse. Women in de facto relationships were also at higher risk of physical abuse than women who were married. Other factors associated with physical abuse were partners having lower levels of education (secondary school only), risky drinking and smoking.

Although not as strongly correlated as for physical abuse, women who were less than 30 years of age, in de facto relationships and in the relationship for less than five years were also at greater risk of some form of non-physical abuse. Similarly, other correlates with non-physical abuse included risky drinking, partners' lower level of education, smoking and, for social-psychological abuse, working in or being partnered to a man working in the mining industry.

Of the women in the study who acknowledged experience of abuse, 82.9% had considered ending the relationship. Overall they reported motivations, such as love and commitment to the relationship, rather than constraints such as fear or lack of financial independence, as the main reasons they had continued with the relationship. While the majority of the abused women were aware of specialist support services, only one-fifth to a quarter of them had sought help from those services. Most of the women said that they did not need the services because they were able to get the support they needed from friends, family and other generic service providers such as doctors. Of particular concern is the significant correlation between experiences of all forms of abuse and poor mental health; specifically depression and severe psychological symptomatology.

These results are highly consistent with the results of the earlier research conducted in the Bowen Basin and Mackay region of Central Queensland, and broadly consistent with the results of the Australian Component of the International Violence against Women Survey. They point to the need for targeted primary prevention initiatives, as well as enhanced secondary or early intervention initiatives, particularly for groups of women especially vulnerable. The results also highlight the need for broad-based education for families, friends and victims of intimate partner abuse themselves about the harmful effects of intimate partner abuse and the role of specialist services. Finally, because women suffering intimate partner abuse seem more willing (and able) to access generic support services, such as a doctor, the availability of consistent, quality training on recognising and responding to intimate partner abuse for a wide range of professionals is required.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Risk management strategy

Possible risks and risk management strategies: Training Information for Telephone Interviewers

Project title: Intimate Partner Abuse of women in Queensland

Who could be at risk	Nature of risk	How and when at risk	Risk Management (Mandatory) What to do?
Interviewee	a) Personal safety	i) Presence of an abusive male partner in the house	NB* The questions about experience of various forms of abuse are closed questions (mainly yielding a 'yes' or 'no' answer, sometimes requiring a response of 'always', 'often' or 'never', or similar one word response), so another person over-hearing responses would not know the nature of the questions. However, immediately before questions on experience of abuse, inform the participant that this set of questions is going to be asked and check if she is able to continue at this point, or would find it safer/more convenient to call back on the 1800 number provided. Do not continue the interview if there is any indication that it is unsafe to do so. The interviewee is to be advised that she should immediately hang up if she feels unsafe, with the option of calling back when it is convenient for her to do so.
		ii) Presence of any other adult in the house, and who could hear the conversation	As above
		iii) Unscheduled arrival of any adult person in the house, and who could hear the conversation	As above

	b) Psychological health and security	For respondents who are living in an abusive relationship, certain questions could be distressing to them.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide telephone number of dvconnect (specialist statewide telephone service) to all the participants; and encourage them to contact the service if at all concerned. dvconnect' -: Ph 1800 811811 2. Training provided by Ms Betty Taylor to the interviewers. Ms Taylor has extensive counselling and training experience in the field of domestic and family violence prevention. The training will sensitise interviewers to the impacts of domestic and family violence and provide skills to monitor and check participants' anxiety/stress, and to make referral as appropriate. The training program will be drawn from the accredited <i>Course in Responding to Domestic and Family Violence</i> (30629QLD), which Ms Taylor has been delivering across Queensland.
Interviewer	Psychological health	Interviewer may be impacted by vicarious trauma.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The interview design, requiring only 'yes' , 'no' 'always' , 'often' or 'never' responses will ensure this risk is very minimal. 2. Experienced and mature female interviewers shall conduct the interviews. 3. Ms. Taylor will also provide a de-briefing for telephone interviewers, and make referrals where necessary, to address any issues of vicarious trauma. 4. Ms. Christine Hanley (Manager of the PRL) will supervise day-to-day conduct of the interviews and monitor any signs of distress among interviewers. 5. A pre-testing of the interview schedule shall be conducted on 20 respondents to identify and rectify any unforeseen/unintended/unexplored consequence/s of the interviews on the interviewers and interviewees.

Appendix 2: Interview schedule

Incorporating:

1a: Key concepts matrix

1b: Interview script

1a: Key concepts matrix

Key Concept	Sub-concept	Items to be asked	Comments
Background of the respondent and her partner	Socio-demographic	Age Location Number of years in the locality/town Country of birth Number of children Ages of children Number of children at home Origin (rural/mining town/urban) of the partners Educational Qualification Marital status (single/married/de-facto) Number of years in the relationship	Refer Q nos. 1 to 16 in the attached interview script
Economic Dependence	Occupational	Employment status of the partners (full-time/part-time/unemployed) Structural characteristics of the job Number of hours worked each working day Number of week-ends worked in a month Shift-work, if any Commuting distance Nights away from home	Question numbers 17 to 25 for the respondent. Q nos. 26 to 34 for the partner
	Income	Personal Total household	Q nos. 35-36
	Debt	Personal Total household Type (mortgage, car, personal, other...)	Q no. 38.
Substance Abuse	Alcohol	Frequency and Quantity of alcohol consumed Self Partner	Audit C Scale. Q nos. 44-49 and 62
	Gambling		Q nos. 56-61 and 62
	Smoking	Cigarettes smoked per day Self Partner	Q nos. 40-43 and 62
	Illegal drugs	Frequency and Quantity Self Partner	Q nos. 50-55 and 62
Gender inequality	Division of household work		Q no. 39

Abuse	Physical		Select Questions from CTS scale. Q no. 64 (1-10)
	Sexual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is jealous and doesn't want you to talk to other men. (Sexual jealousy) 	Q no. 64 (10) and 63 (3)
	Social-psychological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He tries to limit your contact with family or friends. (Controlling Behaviour: Psychological Abuse) • He demands to know who you are with and where you are at all times. 	Q no. 63 (1 & 5)
	Psychological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He puts you down or calls you names to make you feel bad. (Psychological Abuse) • He harms, or threatens to harm, someone close to you. • He damages or destroys your possessions or property. • He demands that you do what he wants <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He acts like you are his personal servant 	Q no. 63 (2, 4, 6, 9 & 10)
	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He prevents you from knowing about or having access to the family income, even if you ask. • He is stingy in giving you enough money to run the home 	Q no. 63 (7 & 8)
Help seeking	Reports to police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you ever reported any violence you've experienced from your partner to the police? • If not, what has been the main reason you haven't reported violence to police? 	Q nos. 65 & 66
	Reasons for remaining in abusive relationship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you ever considered ending your relationship in response to the abuse you have just told me about? • How influential have the following reasons been in your own decision to stay in the relationship (no influence at all, just a small influence, moderately influential, very influential)? 	Q nos 67 & 68, with several possible reasons for 68 (e.g. Partner has promised to change; for the sake of the children; still love my partner; lack of confidence to live independently; resolved our problems; no money; nowhere to go; shame; wanted to give relationship another try; the abuse was not serious enough; do not know).
	Access to support services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are aware of any support or counselling service/s available for women in their domestic lives or intimate relationships? • Have you ever sought assistance 	Q nos. 69, 70 & 71

		from any of these services / agencies? • If not, what has stopped you?	
Social integration	Family	Proximity to family members	Q no. 72, & 73
	Social networks	Participation in community groups/activities Number and proximity of friends	Q no. 74
Health	Physical and mental well-being	SF12 Scale	SF – 12 scale. Q no. 75

1b: Phone script

CATI Survey: Health and well-being of women in Queensland (Intimate Partner Abuse in Queensland)

**// Pre-interview: recruitment and training

The PRL will recruit the most experienced female telephone interviewers for this project. Ms Betty Taylor, who has extensive counselling and training experience in the field of domestic and family violence prevention, will provide training for the telephone interviewers. The training will sensitise interviewers to the impacts of domestic and family violence and provide skills to monitor participants' anxiety/stress and to make appropriate referrals. Ms Taylor will also provide a de-briefing for telephone interviewers, and make referrals where necessary, to address any issues of vicarious trauma.

**// Methodological Issue:

Non-Response

We would like to record the reasons for a failure to conduct the interviews with the eligible female respondents. This may include (but not limited to):

1. Language problem: If the respondent at the other end (female) failed to communicate in English.
2. The intended respondent (adult female) refused to participate in the survey. Record the reason for non-participation in the survey**

Sample:

A total of 1600 completed interviews.

The sample is to be stratified to ensure adequate inclusion of women in rural and remote parts of the State.

Selection of the interviewees:

Adult females (over 18 years of age) living in a 'spouse-like' (married or de-facto) relationship with a man. Interviewers will only proceed with an introduction to the study when the phone is answered by a woman. This is to avoid any possibility of risk to a woman whose abusive partner answers the phone. The PRL has a standard protocol for ending calls where the relevant quota (e.g. male = 0) has been met.

**// What to include in the interview:

- Obtain **consent from the interviewees** for the interview as per PRL protocol
- **Call back option** – provide a 1800+ telephone number to the interviewees at the start of the interview to accommodate any unanticipated interruptions, or preference to answer some questions at another time (eg when they are alone). When this occurs the interviewees are to be encouraged to call-back to continue with their interviews.

Interview Schedule:

Demographic variables

1. What is the nature of your relationship with the man you are currently living with?
Married or De-facto?
2. The number of years or months you have lived in this relationship?
// Record the number of completed years/ months...
3. In what town/locality do you live?
4. The total number of years or months you have lived in this town/locality.
// Record the number of completed years. If less than a year then record the number of months.
5. How long has your partner lived in this town/locality?
// Record the number of completed years. If less than a year then record the number of months.
6. Where did you spend a greater part of your life until you attained adulthood i.e. 18years of age?
A metropolitan city
A town
A rural community
A mining town/community
Any other (specify)
7. Where did your partner spend a greater part of his life until he attained adulthood i.e. 18years of age?
A metropolitan city
A town
A rural community
A mining town/community
Any other (specify)
Do not know
8. Please name the country where you were born.
9. Please name the country where your partner was born.
10. What is your age?
// Seek response in number of completed years.
11. What is your partner's age?
// Record the response (in number of completed years). If not sure of the age of the partner, get an approximate age.
12. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
 1. No schooling
 2. Some primary school (less than 7 years of schooling)
 3. Completed primary school (7years of schooling)
 4. Completed junior high school (10 years of schooling)
 5. Completed senior high school (12 years of schooling)
 6. Some technical school / TAFE college / Apprenticeship
 7. Completed technical school / TAFE / Apprenticeship
 8. Some University
 9. Completed Bachelor's Degree (Arts, Science, Engineering, etc.)
 10. Completed Master's degree: MA, MSc, MLS, MSW, etc.

11. Completed Doctoral Degree: PhD, "doctorate"
12. Completed Professional Degree (e.g. Law, Medicine, Dentistry)
13. Don't know

13. What is the highest level of education your partner has completed?

1. No schooling
2. Some primary school (less than 7 years of schooling)
3. Completed primary school (7 years of schooling)
4. Completed junior high school (10 years of schooling)
5. Completed senior high school (12 years of schooling)
6. Some technical school / TAFE college / Apprenticeship
7. Completed technical school / TAFE / Apprenticeship
8. Some University
9. Completed Bachelor's Degree (Arts, Science, Engineering, etc.)
10. Completed Master's degree: MA, MSc, MLS, MSW, etc.
11. Completed Doctoral Degree: PhD, "doctorate"
12. Completed Professional Degree (e.g. Law, Medicine, Dentistry)
13. Don't know

14. How many children do you have?

15. What are their ages?

16. How many of them currently live with you?

Employment status of the interviewee:

17. What is your present employment status?

- 1 Employed full-time, paid job
- 2 Employed part-time, paid job
- 3 Unemployed (out of work but looking for work)
- 4 Self employed / run a business
5. Retired
6. Pensioner
7. Homemaker
8. Other (Specify)
9. Don't know

18. How many hours do you usually work in a week?

19. How many hours do you work on a typical working day?

// Record actual hours.

20. Does your job involve any kind of shiftwork (that is, working outside regular and fixed daytime hours i.e. between 7am and 6 pm)?

Yes/No

21. What types of shiftwork are you engaged in (record all that apply)?

Evening/night shifts

Rotating shifts (i.e. shifts that rotate or change according to a fixed schedule)

Fixed shifts (i.e. shifts that are the same each week)
Split shifts (i.e. working days that are split into two or more segments separated by extended breaks)
Extended workdays (i.e. 10-12 hours)
Irregular schedules
On-call schedules
Weekend shifts

22. Please specify your current work roster.
// record the roster

23. How far from your principal residence is your place of employment (kms)?

24. Does your job require you to make regular use of accommodation other than your principal place of residence (e.g. hotels, workcamps, sharehouses etc)?
Yes/No
If yes, 'In a typical month, how many days or nights would you need to spend in a temporary accommodation?'

25. Please specify the industry in which you are employed / own

1. Agriculture, forestry & fishing
2. Mining
3. Manufacturing
4. Electricity, gas & water supply
5. Construction
6. Wholesale trade
7. Retail trade
8. Accommodation, cafes & restaurants
9. Transport and storage
10. Communication services
11. Finance, property and business services
12. Finance & insurance
13. Property & business services
14. Government administration
15. Cultural & recreational services
16. Health & community services
17. Education
18. Personal & other services
19. Other

Employment status of the interviewee's partner

26. What is the current employment status of your partner?

- 1 Employed full-time, paid job
- 2 Employed part-time, paid job
- 3 Unemployed (out of work but looking for work)
- 4 Self employed / runs a business
5. Retired
6. Pensioner
7. Homemaker
8. Other (Specify)
9. Don't know

27. How many hours does your partner usually work in a week?

28. How many hours does he work on a typical working day?
// Record actual hours.
29. Does his job involve any kind of shiftwork (that is, working outside regular and fixed daytime hours i.e. between 7am and 6 pm)?
Yes/No
30. What types of shiftwork he is engaged in (record all that apply)?
Evening/night shifts
Rotating shifts (i.e. shifts that rotate or change according to a fixed schedule)
Fixed shifts (i.e. shifts that are the same each week)
Split shifts (i.e. working days that are split into two or more segments separated by extended breaks)
Extended workdays (i.e. 10-12 hours)
Irregular schedules
On-call schedules
Weekend shifts
31. Please specify his current work roster.
// record the roster
32. How far from your principal residence is his place of employment (kms)?
33. Does his job require him to make regular use of accommodation other than your principal place of residence (e.g. hotels, workcamps, sharehouses etc)?
Yes/No
If yes, 'In a typical month, how many days or nights would he need to spend in temporary accommodation?'
34. Please specify the industry in which your partner is employed:
1. Agriculture, forestry & fishing
 2. Mining
 3. Manufacturing
 4. Electricity, gas & water supply
 5. Construction
 6. Wholesale trade
 7. Retail trade
 8. Accommodation, cafes & restaurants
 9. Transport and storage
 10. Communication services
 11. Finance, property and business services
 12. Finance & insurance
 13. Property & business services
 14. Government administration
 15. Cultural & recreational services
 16. Health & community services
 17. Education
 18. Personal & other services
 19. Other

Income (and Debts)

35. What is your approximate individual gross weekly income?

// Income is also provided in 'year', should a respondent find it easier to recall the annual income

	\$ Per week	\$ per year
1.	\$2,500 - or more	\$130,000 or more
2.	\$2,000 - \$2,499 per week	\$100,000 - \$129,999
3.	\$1,500 - \$1,999	\$78,000 - \$99,999
4.	\$1,000 - \$1,499	\$52,000 - \$77,999
5.	\$800 - \$999	\$41,600 - \$51,999
6.	\$700 - \$799	\$36,400 - \$41,599
7.	\$600 - \$699	\$31,200 - \$36,399
8.	\$500 - \$599	\$26,000 - \$31,199
9.	\$400 - \$499	\$20,800 - \$25,999
10.	\$300 - \$399	\$15,600 - \$19,799
11.	\$200 - \$299	\$10,400 - \$15,599
12.	\$160 - \$199	\$8,320 - \$10,399
13.	\$120 - \$159	\$6,240 - \$8,319
14.	\$80 - \$119	\$4,160 - \$6,239
15.	\$40 - \$79	\$2,080 - \$4,159
16.	\$1 - \$39	\$1 - \$2,079
17.	Nil	
18.	Don't know	
19.	No response	

36. What is your partner's approximate individual gross weekly income?

// Income is also provided in 'year', should a respondent find it easier to recall the annual income

	\$ Per week	\$ per year
1.	\$2,500 - or more	\$130,000 or more
2.	\$2,000 - \$2,499 per week	\$100,000 - \$129,999
3.	\$1,500 - \$1,999	\$78,000 - \$99,999
4.	\$1,000 - \$1,499	\$52,000 - \$77,999
5.	\$800 - \$999	\$41,600 - \$51,999
6.	\$700 - \$799	\$36,400 - \$41,599
7.	\$600 - \$699	\$31,200 - \$36,399
8.	\$500 - \$599	\$26,000 - \$31,199
9.	\$400 - \$499	\$20,800 - \$25,999
10.	\$300 - \$399	\$15,600 - \$19,799
11.	\$200 - \$299	\$10,400 - \$15,599
12.	\$160 - \$199	\$8,320 - \$10,399
13.	\$120 - \$159	\$6,240 - \$8,319
14.	\$80 - \$119	\$4,160 - \$6,239
15.	\$40 - \$79	\$2,080 - \$4,159
16.	\$1 - \$39	\$1 - \$2,079
17.	Nil	
18.	Don't know	
19.	No response	

37. How do you and your partner operate the bank account/s (please tick any number of responses, as applicable)

- a. We (my partner and me) run a joint bank account.
- b. I have my own individual bank account.

c. My partner has his own bank account.

38. We would like to know about the amount of debt you and your partner carry, both individually and together. What is the total level of debt (mortgages, credit cards, car loans, personal loans) you would estimate:

- a. You owe as an individual?
- b. Your partner owes as an individual?
- c. You and your partner owe jointly?

Household duties and Gender-role attitudes:

39. Please tell me who, within your relationship, actually performs the following household roles. You have 'six ways to provide me your response, these are: 'always by you', 'mostly by you', 'shared equally', 'mostly by your partner', 'always by your partner', 'not relevant':

- 1 Laundry
- 2. Ironing the clothes
- 3. House cleaning
- 4. Preparation of meals
- 5. Washing the dishes
- 6. Mowing the lawn
- 7. Car cleaning
- 8. Paying the bills (electricity/telephone/rents/loan payments etc.)
- 9. Purchasing groceries
- 10. Looking after dependent children
- 11. Dropping off and picking up kids from school
- 12. Attending special events at the school.
- 13. Household maintenance and repairs

Smoking and Alcohol consumption

Now I shall ask a number of questions about substance use by the two of you.

B) SMOKING:

40. Do you smoke cigarettes?

Yes/No

41. How many cigarettes per day do you smoke?

- a. 10 or less
- b. 11-20
- c. 21-30
- d. 31 or more

Smoking: About your partner

42. Does your partner smoke cigarettes?

Yes/No

43. How many cigarettes per day would you estimate he smokes?

- a. 10 or less
- b. 11-20
- c. 21-30
- d. 31 or more

Alcohol:

44. How often do you have a drink containing alcohol?

- never
- monthly or less
- 2 to 4 times a month
- 2 to 3 times a week
- 4 or more times a week

45. How many standard drinks do you have on a typical day when drinking? One standard drink equals one middy or pot of ordinary beer (285ml), one glass of wine (100ml), one nip of spirits (30ml) or one glass of fortified wine like port or sherry (60ml).

- 1 to 2 drinks
- 3 to 4 drinks
- 5 to 6 drinks
- 7 to 9 drinks
- 10 or more drinks

46. How often do you have 6 or more standard drinks on one occasion?

- never
- less than monthly
- monthly
- weekly
- daily or almost daily

Alcohol: About your partner

47. How often do you think your partner would have a drink containing alcohol?

- never
- monthly or less
- 2 to 4 times a month
- 2 to 3 times a week
- 4 or more times a week

48. How many standard drinks would you estimate your partner has on a typical day when drinking?

- 1 to 2 drinks
- 3 to 4 drinks
- 5 to 6 drinks
- 7 to 9 drinks
- 10 or more drinks

49. How often would you estimate he has 6 or more drinks on one occasion?

- never
- less than monthly
- monthly
- weekly
- daily or almost daily

Drugs:

I'm going to ask now about your use of illegal drugs. Please remember that all your answers will remain strictly confidential.

50 (a) Do you ever take amphetamines (i.e. speed, goers, pep pills etc)?

Yes/No/don't know

a1). If yes, how often do you take amphetamines?

- 1 to 3 times a week
- 4 or more times a week
- 2 to 4 times a month

monthly or less

(b) Do you ever take ecstasy or other forms of MDMA?

Yes/No/don't know

(b1). If yes, how often do you take ecstasy?

1 to 3 times a week

4 or more times a week

2 to 4 times a month

monthly or less

(c). Do you ever take methamphetamines (i.e. crystal meth/ice)?

Yes/No/don't know

(c1). If yes, how often do you take methamphetamines?

1 to 3 times a week

4 or more times a week

2 to 4 times a month

monthly or less

(d). Do you ever use benzodiazepine sedatives or sleeping pills without a prescription

(e.g. Valium, Ducene, Alepam, Murelax, Serepax, Alodorm. Mogadon, Xanax, Ativan etc)?

Yes/No/don't know

(d1). If yes, how often do you take benzodiazepine sedatives or sleeping pills without a prescription?

1 to 3 times a week

4 or more times a week

2 to 4 times a month

monthly or less

(e). Do you ever use cannabis/marijuana?

Yes/No/don't know

(e1). If yes, how often do you take cannabis/marijuana?

1 to 3 times a week

4 or more times a week

2 to 4 times a month

monthly or less

(f). Do you ever use cocaine?

Yes/No/don't know

(f1). If yes, how often do you use cocaine?

1 to 3 times a week

4 or more times a week

2 to 4 times a month

monthly or less

(g). Do you ever use heroin or other opiates?

Yes/No/don't know

(g1) If yes, how often to you use heroin or other opiates?

1 to 3 times a week

4 or more times a week

2 to 4 times a month

monthly or less

(h). Do you use any other illicit or non-prescription drugs? (Please specify)

Drug consumption: About your partner

50 (a) Does your partner ever take amphetamines (i.e. speed, goers, pep pills etc)?

Yes/No/don't know

a1). If yes, how often he takes amphetamines?

1 to 3 times a week

4 or more times a week

2 to 4 times a month

monthly or less

(b) Does your partner ever take ecstasy or other forms of MDMA?

Yes/No/don't know

(b1). If yes, how often he takes ecstasy?

1 to 3 times a week

4 or more times a week

2 to 4 times a month

monthly or less

(c). Does your partner ever take methamphetamines (i.e. crystal meth/ice)?

Yes/No/don't know

(c1). If yes, how often he takes methamphetamines?

1 to 3 times a week

4 or more times a week

2 to 4 times a month

monthly or less

(d). Does your partner ever use benzodiazepine sedatives or sleeping pills without a prescription (eg. Valium, Ducene, Alepam, Murelax, Serepax, Alodorm, Mogadon, Xanax, Ativan etc)?

Yes/No/don't know

(d1). If yes, how often he takes benzodiazepine sedatives or sleeping pills without a prescription

1 to 3 times a week

4 or more times a week

2 to 4 times a month

monthly or less

(e). Does your partner ever use cannabis/marijuana?

Yes/No/don't know

(e1). If yes, how often he takes cannabis/marijuana?

1 to 3 times a week

4 or more times a week

2 to 4 times a month

monthly or less

(f). Does your partner ever use cocaine?

Yes/No/don't know

(f1). If yes, how often he uses cocaine?

1 to 3 times a week

4 or more times a week

2 to 4 times a month

monthly or less

(g). Does your partner ever use heroin or other opiates?
Yes/No/don't know

(g1) If yes, how often he uses heroin or other opiates?
1 to 3 times a week
4 or more times a week
2 to 4 times a month
monthly or less

(h). Does your partner use any other illicit or non-prescription drugs? (Please specify)

Gambling:

56. Do you gamble? By gambling we mean any or more of the activities including bingo, card games, dice games, lottery, sports betting, racing, slots/VLTs, Pokie-Machines, Keno etc.

Yes
No

57. How often do you gamble?
Once in a month or two
2 or 3 times a month
2 or 3 times a week
Daily or almost daily

58. When you gamble, how much money do you usually spend?
Less than \$10
Between \$ 10 to \$30
Between \$30 to \$50
Between \$50 to \$100
Over \$100

Gambling: About your partner

59. Does your partner gamble?
Yes
No
Do not know

60. How often does he gamble?
Once in a month or two
2 or 3 times a month
2 or 3 times a week
Daily or almost daily
Do not know

61. When he gambles, how much money would you estimate he usually spends?
Less than \$10
Between \$ 10 to \$30
Between \$30 to \$50
Between \$50 to \$100
Over \$100
Do not know

Association of abuse with gambling and substance use:

62. In the past six months, was your partner aggressive or abusive towards you:

1. When he was under the influence of alcohol?
Never / sometimes / most of the time
2. When he was under the influence of drugs?
Never / sometimes / most of the time
3. When he did not have cigarettes handy to him?
Never / sometimes / most of the time
4. When he lost money gambling
Never / sometimes / most of the time

Non-physical abuse

63. It is important to hear from people themselves if we are to understand the serious problem of violence or abuse in the home. Every-one participating in this survey is being asked the same questions. I will now provide you with ten statements that characterise non-physical abuse of women by their male partners/spouses. Your responses will be a 'yes'; 'no'; 'always'; 'often' or 'never'. You do not need to describe or discuss any experience of abuse you may have had. Is it convenient to ask you these questions now? If not, please call back on the 1800 number at your earliest convenience.

Please tell me how often your partner does the following to you:

1. He tries to limit your contact with family or friends.
Always / often / never
2. He puts you down or calls you names to make you feel bad.
Always / often / never
3. He is jealous and doesn't want you to talk to other men.
Always / often / never
4. He harms, or threatens to harm, someone close to you.
Always / often / never
5. He demands to know who you are with and where you are at all times.
Always / often / never
6. He damages or destroys your possessions or property.
Always / often / never
7. He prevents you from knowing about the family income or having access to the family income for your personal items, even if you ask.
Always / often / never
8. He is stingy in giving you enough money to run the home
Always / often / never
9. He demands that you do what he wants
Always / often / never

10. He acts like you are his personal servant
Always / often / never

Physical Abuse

64. Now I'm going to ask you ten short questions about physical abuse. Again, every-one participating in this survey is being asked the same questions and your responses will be a 'yes'; 'no'; 'always'; 'often' or 'never'. You do not need to describe or discuss any experience of abuse you may have had. If the answer is 'yes', you will then be asked if this has happened in the past 12 months. This information will let us know how many women in the survey area have recently experienced abuse by their partner, and how many have ever experienced abuse by their current partner. Your responses are important whether or not you have had any of these experiences. Remember that all information provided is strictly confidential.

1. Has your partner ever threatened to hit you with his fist or anything else that could have hurt you?

Yes/ No

If Yes, has this happened in the past 12 months?

Yes/No

If Yes, then how often:

only once / 2 to 3 times / more than three times.

2. Has he ever thrown anything at you that could have hurt you?

Yes/ No

If Yes, has this happened in the past 12 months?

Yes/No

If Yes, then how often:

only once / 2 to 3 times / more than three times.

3. Has your partner ever pushed, grabbed or shoved you in a way that could have hurt you?

Yes/ No

If Yes, has this happened in the past 12 months?

Yes/No

If Yes, then how often:

only once / 2 to 3 times / more than three times.

4. Has your partner ever slapped you?

Yes/ No

If Yes, has this happened in the past 12 months?

Yes/No

If Yes, then how often:

only once / 2 to 3 times / more than three times.

5. Has your partner ever kicked, bit or hit you with his fist?

Yes/ No

If Yes, has this happened in the past 12 months?

If Yes, then how often:

only once / 2 to 3 times / more than three times.

6. Has your partner ever hit you with something that could have hurt you?

Yes/ No

If Yes, has this happened in the past 12 months?

Yes/No

If Yes, then how often:
only once / 2 to 3 times / more than three times.

7. In the past year has your partner ever partner beaten you?
Yes/ No

If yes, did he beat you in the past 12 months?
Yes/No

If Yes, then how often:
only once / 2 to 3 times / more than three times.

8. In the past year has your partner ever choked/strangled you?
Yes/ No

If Yes, has this happened in the past 12 months?
Yes/No

If Yes, then how often:
only once / 2 to 3 times / more than three times.

9. In the past year has your partner ever used or threatened to use a gun, a knife or a similar weapon on you?
Yes/ No

If Yes, has this happened in the past 12 months?
Yes/No

If Yes, then how often:
only once / 2 to 3 times / more than three times.

10. In the past year has your partner ever forced you into any unwanted sexual activity?
Yes/ No

If Yes, has this happened in the past 12 months?
Yes/No

If Yes, then how often:
only once / 2 to 3 times / more than three times.

Reports of violence to the police

65. Have you ever reported any violence you've experienced from your partner to the police?

66. If not, what has been the main reason you haven't reported violence to police?

Reasons for continuing abusive relationship:

***following questions (Q no. 67-68) for women who have reported abuse only:

67. Have you ever considered ending your relationship in response to the abuse you have just told me about?

68. Women often persevere with a relationship after they have suffered some abuse. How influential have the following reasons been in your own decision to stay in the relationship (no influence at all, just a small influence, moderately influential, very influential)?

- Partner has promised to change
- For the sake of the children
- I still love my partner
- Lack of confidence to live independently

- My partner and I resolved our problems
- No money
- Nowhere to go
- Shame
- Wanted to give relationship another try
- The abuse was not serious enough
- Do not know
- Any other (specify)

Awareness of support services

69. Are aware of any support or counselling service/s available for women in their domestic lives or intimate relationships?

Yes / No

70. Have you ever sought assistance from any of these services / agencies?

Yes / No

71. If not, what has stopped you?

Relatives and social network:

72. How far do you live from the nearest of your close relatives? (By close relative we mean a parent, brother or sisters).

- Less than 10 kms.
- Between 10 and 50 kms
- Between 50 to 150 kms.
- Between 150 to 500 kms.
- Over 500 kms.
- In another state
- In another country.

73. When did you last meet at least one of your close relatives?

- Within the last week
- Within the last month
- Within the last six months
- Within the last year
- Over a year ago

74. How many close friends do you have in this locality. By a close friend we mean a person other than your partner, with whom you can share your problems and whom you trust?

- None
- One
- Two to four
- Five or more

Thanks for your cooperation so far. Finally:

75. HEALTH SURVEY (SF12)

The following questions ask you for your views about your health. This information will help keep track of how you feel and how well you are able to do your usual activities. The first question is about your health now and your current daily activities. Please try to answer the question as accurately as you can.

Q01. In general would you say your health is:

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Very good
- 3 Good
- 4 Fair
- 5 Poor
- 6 Don't know
- 7 No response

Now I am going to read a list of activities that you might do during a typical day. As I read each item, please tell me if your health right now limits you a lot, a little, or does not limit you at all in these activities.

Q02. Moderate activities (such as moving a table, pushing a vacuum cleaner, bowling, or playing golf): Does your health now limit you a lot, limit you a little, or not limit you at all in doing moderate activities? (PROBE: If Respondent says she/he does not do such activities, probe *"Is that because of your health?"*)

- 1 Yes, limited a lot
- 2 Yes, limited a little
- 3 No, not limited at all
- 4 Don't know
- 5 No response

Q03. Climbing stairs. Does your health now limit you a lot, limit you a little, or not limit you at all (PROBE: If Respondent says she/he does not do activity, probe *Is that because of your health?*)

- 1 Yes, limited a lot
- 2 Yes, limited a little
- 3 No, not limited at all
- 4 Don't know
- 5 No response

The following two questions ask you about your physical health and your daily activities.

Q04. During the past month, have you accomplished less than you would like as a result of your physical health?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 No response

Q05. During the past month, were you limited in the kind of work or other regular activities you do as a result of your physical health?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 No response

The following two questions ask about your emotions and your daily activities:

Q06. During the past month, have you accomplished less than you would like as a result of any emotional problems, such as feeling depressed or anxious?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 No response

Q07. During the past month, did you not do work or other regular activities as carefully as usual as result of any emotional problems, such as feeling depressed or anxious?

- 1 Yes

- 2 No
- 3 No response

Q08. During the past month, how much did pain interfere with your normal work, including both work outside the home and housework? Did it interfere...

- 1 Not at all
- 2 A little bit
- 3 Moderately
- 4 Quite a bit
- 5 Extremely
- 6 No response

Q09. During the past month, how much of the time has your physical health or emotional problems interfered with your social activities like visiting friends or relatives? Has it interfered:

- 1 All of the time
- 2 Most of the time
- 3 Some of the time
- 4 A little of the time
- 5 Or none of the time
- 6 No response

The next questions are about how you feel and how things have been with you during the past month. As I read each statement, please give me the one answer that comes closest to the way you have been feeling. Is it all of the time, most of the time, a good bit of the time, some of the time, a little of the time, or none of the time?

Q10. How much of the time during the past month have you felt calm and peaceful? (Read categories only if necessary)

- 1 All of the time
- 2 Most of the time
- 3 A good bit of the time
- 4 Some of the time
- 5 A little of the time
- 6 None of the time
- 7 No response

Q11. How much of the time during the past month did you have a lot of energy? (Read categories only if necessary).

- 1 All of the time
- 2 Most of the time
- 3 A good bit of the time
- 4 Some of the time
- 5 A little of the time
- 6 None of the time
- 7 No response

Q12. How much of the time during the past month have you felt downhearted and blue? (Read categories only if necessary).

- 1 All of the time
- 2 Most of the time
- 3 A good bit of the time
- 4 Some of the time
- 5 A little of the time
- 6 None of the time
- 7 No response

This is the end of the interview. On behalf of the research team I extend many thanks to you for your cooperation in the survey.

76. Should you feel distressed, or need any assistance or help in your relationship, please contact the confidential, statewide telephone service *dvconnect*: on 1800 811811.

If you would like further information or support regarding gambling, please contact the gambling helpline on 1800 222 050; and if you require help with alcohol or drug dependence please call the Queensland Alcohol and Drug Information Service on 1800 177 833.

*** Closure of the interview.

Appendix 3: Odds ratio (unadjusted) of the type of abuse and its correlates

A) Prevalence of Physical Abuse:

The prevalence of female partner physical abuse in the current spousal relationship in Queensland

		Prevalence					
Variables		Odds Ratio	95 % Confidence Interval		Chi-Square		
(N=243)	Category	OR	CI		Wald	df	Sig.
De facto	210 (86.4%)	1.098	.740	1.631	.216	1	.642
Married	33 (13.6%)	Reference					
Years in relationship							
Less than 5 Years	16 (12.3%)	1.240	.720	2.137	.600	1	.438
5 to 15 Years	68 (14.0%)	.847	.624	1.152	1.119	1	.290
Over 15 years	158 (12.6%)	Reference					
Age in years (respondent): Mean=47.84, SD=13.031		.995	-2.837	.903	1.027	1	.311
Age groups: respondent							
Less than 35years	40 (16.5%)	.936	.623	1.405	.103	1	.748
35 to 44 years	68 (27.9%)	.802	.566	1.136	1.545	1	.214
45 to 54 years	55 (22.6%)	.954	.661	1.377	.064	1	.800
Over 55 years	80 (32.9%)	Reference					
Age in years (partner): Mean=51.02, SD=15.130		.996	.984	1.007	.577	1	.477
Age groups: partner							
Less than 35years	32 (13.2%)	.896	.582	1.379	.248	1	.618
35 to 44 years	57 (23.5%)	.921	.647	1.311	.210	1	.647
45 to 54 years	61 (25.1%)	.824	.582	1.166	1.194	1	.274
Over 55 years	93 (38.3%)	Reference					
Education self: senior school (50.6% senior school or less)		1.294	.371	2.912	1.351	1	.294
Education partner: senior school (51.9% senior school or less)		.971	.376	3.153	.465	1	.371
Country of birth: respondent							
Australia	198 (81.5%)	1.233	.739	2.055	.643	1	.423
Others	45 (18.5%)	Reference					
Country of birth: partner							
Australia	191 (78.6%)	1.271	.779	2.074	.923	1	.337
Others	52 (21.4%)	Reference					
Children							
Yes	215 (88.5%)	1.284	.855	1.928	1.457	1	.227
No	27 (11.5%)	Reference					
Have a paid job: respondent							
Yes	134 (55.1%)	1.023	.780	1.341	.026	1	.871
No	109 (44.9%)	Reference					
Shiftwork: respondent n=134							
Yes	30 (22.4%)	.730	.471	1.133	1.965	1	.161
No	104 (77.6%)	Reference					
Income of women (per year) n=206							
Nil-\$26,000	110 (53.4%)	1.904	.846	4.284	2.422	1	.120
\$26,001-52,000	66 (32.0%)	1.515	.662	3.470	.966	1	.326
\$52,001-100,000	22 (10.7%)	2.169	.879	5.349	2.825	1	.093
Over \$100,000	8 (3.9%)	Reference					

		Prevalence					
Variables		Odds Ratio	95 % Confidence Interval		Chi-Square		
(N=243)	Category	OR	CI		Wald	df	Sig.
Have a paid job: partner							
Yes	178 (12.9%)	1.018	0.939	1.104	0.201	1	0.654
No	65 (13.7%)	Reference					
Shiftwork: partner n=178							
Yes	46 (25.8%)	.969	.676	1.389	.029	1	.865
No	132 (74.2%)	Reference					
Income of partner (per year) n=199							
Nil-\$26,000	46 (23.1%)	1.281	.797	2.058	1.048	1	.306
\$26,001-52,000	54 (27.1%)	1.203	.760	1.905	.621	1	.431
\$52,001-100,000	63 (31.6%)	1.245	.797	1.945	.927	1	.336
Over \$100,000	36 (18.1%)	Reference					
Run joint bank accounts							
Yes	180 (74.1%)	.544	.396	.746	14.266	1	.000
No	63 (25.9%)	Reference					
Women in debt n=231							
Less than \$50,000	48 (20.8%)	.661	.241	.988	1.684	1	.432
Over \$50,000	17 (7.4%)	.539	.171	1.709	2.380	1	.344
No debt	166 (71.9%)	Reference					
Joint debt n=228							
Less than \$100K	50 (21.9%)	.541	.215	1.377	1.426	1	.159
\$100-200K	26 (11.4%)	.696	.338	1.433	.967	1	.325
Over \$200K	53 (23.2%)	.675	.349	1.307	1.358	1	.244
No debt	99 (40.7%)	Reference					
Smokers: women							
Yes	56 (23.0%)	.497	.356	.692	17.058	1	.000
No	187 (77.0%)	Reference					
Smokers: men							
Yes	56 (23.0%)	.680	.491	.942	5.394	1	.020
No	187 (77.0%)	Reference					
Drug use: women							
Yes	16 (6.6%)	.491	.276	.873	5.875	1	.015
No	227 (93.4%)	Reference					
Drug use: men							
Yes	21 (8.6%)	.317	.186	.540	17.819	1	.000
No	222 (91.4%)	Reference					
Risky drinking: women n=242							
Yes	92 (38.0%)	1.189	.899	1.572	1.469	1	.225
No	150 (62.0%)	Reference					
Risky drinking: men n=240							
Yes	128 (53.3%)	1.861	1.416	2.445	19.887	1	.000
No	112 (46.6%)	Reference					

B) Incidence of Physical Abuse:

The incidence of female partner physical abuse during the past 12 months in the current spousal relationship in Queensland

		Incidence (Past 12-months)						
Variables			Odds Ratio	95 % Confidence Interval		Chi-Square		
(N=57)	Category		OR	CI		Wald	df	Sig.
De facto	43 (75.4%)		2.326	1.252	4.321	7.139	1	.008
Married			Reference					
Years in relationship								
Less than 5 Years	12 (21.0%)		.240	.118	.488	15.525	1	.000
5 to 15 Years	20 (35.1%)		.455	.250	.828	6.648	1	.010
Over 15 years	25 (43.9%)		Reference					
Age in years (respondent): Mean=42.28, SD=13.071			.964	.944	.984	12.175	1	.000
Age groups: respondent								
Less than 35years	15 (26.3%)		.366	.169	.791	6.527	1	.011
35 to 44 years	23 (40.4%)		.355	.175	.720	8.227	1	.004
45 to 54 years	7 (12.3%)		1.133	.443	2.901	.068	1	.795
Over 55 years	12 (21.0%)		Reference					
Age in years (partner): Mean=45.47, SD=14.380			.970	.952	.989	9.253	1	.002
Age groups: partner								
Less than 35years	12 (21.0%)		.353	.161	.774	6.756	1	.009
35 to 44 years	16 (28.1%)		.490	.237	1.013	3.705	1	.054
45 to 54 years	15 (26.3%)		.509	.243	1.064	3.223	1	.073
Over 55 years	14 (24.6%)		Reference					
Education self: senior school (49.1% senior school or less)			1.096	.834	1.442	.435	1	.510
Education partner: senior school (56.1% senior school or less)			.844	.629	1.132	1.283	1	.257
Country of birth: respondent								
Australia	47 (82.5%)		1.063	.377	3.002	.014	1	.907
Others	10 (17.5%)		Reference					
Country of birth: partner								
Australia	46 (80.7%)		1.246	.490	3.168	.214	1	.644
Others	11 (19.3%)		Reference					
Children								
Yes	47 (82.5%)		1.863	.955	3.631	3.335	1	.068
No	10 (17.5%)		Reference					
Have a paid job: respondent								
Yes	32 (56.1%)		.979	.575	1.665	.006	1	.937
No	25 (43.9%)		Reference					
Shiftwork: respondent n=32								
Yes	7 (21.9%)		.780	.333	1.824	.329	1	.566
No	25 (78.1%)		Reference					
Income of women (per year) n=53								
Nil-\$26,000	29 (54.7%)		.802	.106	6.057	.046	1	.831
\$26,001-52,000	17 (32.1%)		.671	.087	5.189	.147	1	.702
\$52,001-100,000	6 (11.3%)		.871	.102	7.464	.016	1	.900
Over \$100,000	1 (1.9%)		Reference					

		Incidence (Past 12-months)					
Variable		Odds Ratio	95 % Confidence Interval		Chi-Square		
(N=57)	Category	OR	CI		Wald	df	Sig.
Have a paid job: partner							
Yes	42 (73.7%)	1.040	.572	1.894	.017	1	.897
No	15 (26.3%)	Reference					
Shiftwork: partner n=42							
Yes	14 (33.3%)	.669	.348	1.286	1.451	1	.228
No	28 (66.7%)	Reference					
Income of partner (per year) n=54							
Nil-\$26,000	11 (20.4%)	1.763	.764	4.069	1.763	1	.184
\$26,001-52,000	15 (27.8%)	1.427	.655	3.107	.801	1	.371
\$52,001-100,000	16 (29.6%)	1.615	.750	3.476	1.499	1	.221
Over \$100,000	12 (22.2%)	Reference					
Run joint bank accounts							
Yes	34 (59.6%)	.293	.170	.505	19.562	1	.000
No	23 (40.4%)	Reference					
Women in debt							
Less than \$50,000	15 (26.3%)	.237	.020	3.003	2.038	1	.227
Over \$50,000	5 (8.8%)	.212	.044	3.286	1.713	1	.256
No debt	36 (63.2%)	Reference					
Joint debt							
Less than \$100K	11 (19.3%)	.234	.020	2.915	1.742	1	.239
\$100-200K	4 (7.0%)	.387	.043	3.504	.712	1	.399
Over \$200K	14 (24.6%)	.216	.028	1.662	2.165	1	.141
No debt	27 (40.7%)	Reference					
Smokers: women							
Yes	8 (31.6%)	.345	.194	.612	13.215	1	.000
No	39 (68.4%)	Reference					
Smokers: men							
Yes	19 (33.3%)	.416	.237	.731	9.280	1	.002
No	38 (66.7%)	Reference					
Drug use: women							
Yes	7 (12.3%)	.259	.113	.594	10.174	1	.001
No	50 (87.7%)	Reference					
Drug use: men							
Yes	12 (21.1%)	.120	.060	.240	36.141	1	.000
No	45 (78.9%)	Reference					
Risky drinking: women							
Yes	21 (36.8%)	1.108	.641	1.915	.135	1	.713
No	36 (63.2%)	Reference					
Risky drinking: men							
Yes	30 (52.6%)	1.692	.997	2.870	3.802	1	.051
No	27 (47.4%)	Reference					

C) Prevalence of Sexual Abuse:

The prevalence of female partner sexual abuse in the current spousal relationship in Queensland

		SEXUAL ABUSE						
Variable			Odds Ratio	95 % Confidence Interval		Chi-Square		
(N=27)	Category		OR	CI		Wald	df	Sig.
De facto		23 (85.2%)	1.098	.740	1.631	.216	1	.642
Married		4 (14.8%)	Reference					
Years in relationship								
Less than 5 Years		2 (7.4%)	1.038	.238	4.524	.003	1	.960
5 to 15 Years		7 (25.9%)	.906	.373	2.197	.048	1	.827
Over 15 years		17 (62.9%)	Reference					
Age in years (respondent): Mean=45.85, SD=12.123			.985	.958	1.013	1.139	1	.286
Age groups: respondent								
Less than 35years	5 (18.5%)		.657	.207	2.086	.508	1	.476
35 to 44 years	9 (33.3%)		.541	.200	1.464	1.462	1	.227
45 to 54 years	6 (22.2%)		.767	.256	2.298	.225	1	.636
Over 55 years	7 (25.9%)		Reference					
Age in years (partner): Mean=48.07, SD=13.292			.984	.958	1.011	1.363	1	.243
Age groups: partner								
Less than 35years	4 (14.8%)		.622	.185	2.082	.594	1	.441
35 to 44 years	7 (25.9%)		.648	.233	1.800	.693	1	.405
45 to 54 years	8 (29.6%)		.550	.205	1.476	1.410	1	.235
Over 55 years	8 (29.6%)		Reference					
Education self: senior school (33.3% senior school or less)			1.217	.822	1.802	.962	1	0.327
Education partner: senior school (48.1% senior school or less)			1.012	.670	1.526	.003	1	.956
Country of birth: respondent								
Australia	24 (88.9%)		.516	.069	3.845	.417	1	.518
Others	3 (11.1%)		Reference					
Country of birth: partner								
Australia	21 (77.8%)		1.610	.474	5.470	.583	1	.445
Others	6 (22.2%)		Reference					
Children								
Yes	23 (85.2%)		1.520	.542	4.268	.633	1	.426
No	4 (14.8%)		Reference					
Have a paid job: respondent								
Yes	18 (66.7%)		.623	.278	1.393	1.329	1	.249
No	9 (33.3%)		Reference					
Shiftwork: respondent n=18								
Yes	6 (33.3%)		.434	.161	1.169	2.728	1	.099
No	12 (66.7%)		Reference					
Income of women (per year) n=24								
Nil-\$26,000	10 (41.7%)		4.900	1.033	23.235	4.005	1	.045
\$26,001-52,000	10 (41.7%)		2.388	.503	11.342	1.199	1	.273
\$52,001-100,000	2 (8.3%)		5.500	.749	40.386	2.809	1	.094
Over \$100,000	2 (8.3%)		Reference					

		SEXUAL ABUSE					
Variable		Odds Ratio	95 % Confidence Interval		Chi-Square		
(N=27)	Category	OR	CI		Wald	df	Sig.
Have a paid job: partner							
Yes	24 (88.9%)	.360	.108	1.200	2.768	1	.096
No	3 (11.1%)	Reference					
Shiftwork: partner n=24							
Yes	8 (33.3%)	.673	.286	1.587	.818	1	.366
No	16 (66.7%)	Reference					
Income of partner (per year) n=23							
Nil-\$26,000	3 (13.0%)	4.329	1.135	16.500	4.606	1	.032
\$26,001-52,000	8 (34.8%)	1.783	.659	4.820	1.298	1	.255
\$52,001-100,000	4 (17.4%)	4.338	1.292	14.569	5.636	1	.018
Over \$100,000	8 (34.8%)	Reference					
Run joint bank accounts							
Yes	19 (70.4%)	.490	.213	1.129	2.803	1	.094
No	8 (29.6%)	Reference					
Women in debt							
Less than \$50,000	6 (22.2%)						
Over \$50,000	3 (11.1%)						
No debt	18 (66.7%)						
Joint debt							
Less than \$100K	4 (14.8%)						
\$100-200K	5 (18.5%)						
Over \$200K	8 (29.6%)						
No debt	9 (33.3%)						
Smokers: women							
Yes	6 (22.2%)	.577	.231	1.443	1.382	1	.240
No	21 (77.8%)	Reference					
Smokers: men							
Yes	8 (29.6%)	.505	.219	1.164	2.570	1	.109
No	19 (70.4%)	Reference					
Drug use: women							
Yes	2 (7.4%)	.482	.112	2.078	.957	1	.328
No	25 (92.6%)	Reference					
Drug use: men							
Yes	4 (14.8%)	.208	.070	.620	7.943	1	.005
No	23 (85.2%)	Reference					
Risky drinking: women							
Yes	14 (51.9%)	2.063	.964	4.415	3.476	1	.062
No	13 (48.1%)	Reference					
Risky drinking: men							
Yes	19 (70.4%)	3.624	1.578	8.322	9.213	1	.002
No	8 (29.6%)	Reference					

D) Prevalence of Economic Abuse:

The prevalence of female partner economic abuse in the current spousal relationship in Queensland

		ECONOMIC ABUSE					
Variable		Odds Ratio	95 % Confidence Interval		Chi-Square		
(N=100)	Category	OR	CI		Wald	df	Sig.
De facto v. Married	81 (81.0%)	1.673	.995	2.813	3.774	1	.052
Married	19 (19.0%)						
Years in relationship							
Less than 5 Years	13 (13.0%)	.610	.328	1.134	2.442	1	.118
5 to 15 Years	20 (20.0%)	1.264	.758	2.108	.807	1	.369
Over 15 years	67 (67.0%)	Reference					
Age in years (respondent): Mean=48.65, SD=12.829		1.000	.985	1.014	.001	1	.980
Age groups: respondent							
Less than 35years	15 (15.0%)	1.140	.614	2.115	.172	1	.678
35 to 44 years	25 (25.0%)	1.012	.599	1.710	.002	1	.965
45 to 54 years	24 (24.0%)	.989	.581	1.682	.002	1	.967
Over 55 years	36 (36.0%)	Reference					
Age in years (partner): Mean=52.24, SD=14.116		1.004	.991	1.018	.386	1	.534
Age groups: partner							
Less than 35years	11 (11.0%)	1.236	.627	2.437	.374	1	.541
35 to 44 years	17 (17.0%)	1.469	.827	2.609	1.723	1	.189
45 to 54 years	29 (29.0%)	.812	.499	1.320	.707	1	.401
Over 55 years	43 (43.0%)	Reference					
Education self: senior school (54.5% senior school or less)		.871	.701	1.082	1.557	1	.212
Education partner: senior school (46.5% senior school or less)		1.073	.862	1.334	.396	1	.529
Country of birth: respondent							
Australia	80 (80.0%)	1.264	.597	2.680	.375	1	.541
Others	20 (20.0%)	Reference					
Country of birth: partner							
Australia	80 (80.0%)	1.429	.722	2.827	1.051	1	.305
Others	20 (20.0%)	Reference					
Children							
Yes	91 (91.0%)	.876	.438	1.750	.142	1	.707
No	9 (9.0%)	Reference					
Have a paid job: respondent							
Yes	51 (51.0%)	1.217	.813	1.822	.914	1	.339
No	49 (49.0%)	Reference					
Shiftwork: respondent n=51							
Yes	9 (17.6%)	1.026	.493	2.135	.005	1	.946
No	42 (82.4%)	Reference					
Income of women (per year) n=82							
Nil-\$26,000	48 (58.5%)	.473	.063	3.528	.533	1	.465
\$26,001-52,000	26 (31.7%)	.429	.056	3.253	.671	1	.413
\$52,001-100,000	7 (8.5%)	.743	.089	6.228	.075	1	.784
Over \$100,000	1 (1.2%)	Reference					

		ECONOMIC ABUSE					
Variable		Odds Ratio	95 % Confidence Interval		Chi-Square		
(N=100)	Category	OR	CI		Wald	df	Sig.
Have a paid job: partner							
Yes	76 (76.0%)	.914	.571	1.465	.138	1	.710
No	24 (24.0%)	Reference					
Shiftwork: partner n=76							
Yes	16 (21.1%)	1.289	.732	2.268	.773	1	.379
No	60 (78.9%)	Reference					
Income of partner (per year) n=72							
Nil-\$26,000	19 (26.4%)	.567	.234	1.372	1.585	1	.208
\$26,001-52,000	21 (29.2%)	.571	.238	1.365	1.590	1	.207
\$52,001-100,000	25 (34.7%)	.576	.245	1.354	1.600	1	.206
Over \$100,000	7 (9.7%)	Reference					
Run joint bank accounts							
Yes	60 (60.0%)	.286	.188	.435	34.218	1	.000
No	40 (40.0%)	Reference					
Women in debt							
Less than \$50,000	24 (24.0%)	.199	.017	2.647	3.302	1	.189
Over \$50,000	6 (6.0%)	.544	0.11	1.067	3.649	1	.057
No debt	68 (68.0%)	Reference					
Joint debt							
Less than \$100K	16 (16.0%)	4.210	.703	25.551	2.448	1	.264
\$100-200K	10 (10.0%)	3.299	.711	15.303	2.326	1	.127
Over \$200K	17 (17.0%)	2.805	.639	12.302	1.869	1	.172
No debt	51 (51.0%)	Reference					
Smokers: women							
Yes	22 (22.0%)	.569	.348	.931	5.041	1	.025
No	78 (78.0%)	Reference					
Smokers: men							
Yes	22 (22.0%)	.751	.460	1.224	1.322	1	.250
No	78 (78.0%)	Reference					
Drug use: women							
Yes	11 (11.0%)	.281	.143	.554	13.454	1	.000
No	89 (89.0%)	Reference					
Drug use: men							
Yes	8 (8.0%)	.407	.189	.875	5.289	1	.021
No	92 (92.0%)	Reference					
Risky drinking: women							
Yes	37 (37.0%)	1.119	.737	1.699	.278	1	.598
No	63 (63.0%)	Reference					
Risky drinking: men							
Yes	55 (55.0%)	1.897	1.265	2.846	9.575	1	.002
No	45 (45.0%)	Reference					

E) Prevalence of Psychological Abuse:
The prevalence of psychological abuse of the female partner in Queensland

		PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE						
Variable			Odds Ratio	95 % Confidence Interval		Chi-Square		
(N=468)	Category		OR	CI		Wald	df	Sig.
De facto		398 (85.0%)	1.305	.965	1.764	2.988	1	.084
Married		70 (15.0%)	Reference					
Years in relationship								
Less than 5 Years		39 (8.3%)	.965	.656	1.419	.033	1	.856
5 to 15 Years		119 (25.4%)	.963	.753	1.230	0.93	1	.760
Over 15 years		310 (66.2%)	Reference					
Age in years (respondent): Mean=48.69, SD=13.913			1.000	.992	1.008	.000	1	.997
Age groups: respondent								
Less than 35years	80 (17.1%)		1.019	.732	1.419	.012	1	.912
35 to 44 years	113 (24.1%)		1.247	.945	1.646	2.432	1	.119
45 to 54 years	105 (22.4%)		1.044	.795	1.369	.095	1	.758
Over 55 years	170 (36.3%)		Reference					
Age in years (partner): Mean=51.87, SD=14.848			1.003	.996	1.010	.774	1	.379
Age groups: partner								
Less than 35years	62 (13.2%)		1.003	.737	1.366	.000	1	.983
35 to 44 years	97 (20.7%)		1.076	.818	1.417	.275	1	.600
45 to 54 years	108 (23.1%)		1.092	.824	1.445	.374	1	.541
Over 55 years	201 (42.9%)		Reference					
Education self: senior school (48.2% senior school or less)			1.013	.908	1.130	.052	1	.820
Education partner: senior school (54.5% senior school or less)			.965	.861	1.082	.369	1	.544
Country of birth: respondent								
Australia	375 (80.1%)		1.435	.965	2.135	3.175	1	.075
Others	93 (19.9%)		Reference					
Country of birth: partner								
Australia	370 (79.1%)		1.390	.948	2.039	2.846	1	.092
Others	98 (20.9%)		Reference					
Children								
Yes	429 (91.7%)		.763	.530	1.099	2.117	1	.146
No	39 (8.3%)		Reference					
Have a paid job: respondent								
Yes	239 (51.1%)		1.279	1.036	1.578	5.257	1	.022
No	229 (48.9%)		Reference					
Shiftwork: respondent n=239								
Yes	46 (19.2%)		.899	.623	1.299	.320	1	.572
No	193 (80.8%)		Reference					
Income of women (per year) n=387								
Nil-\$26,000	227 (58.6%)		1.357	.667	2.758	.711	1	.399
\$26,001-52,000	103 (26.6%)		1.519	.734	3.146	1.269	1	.260
\$52,001-100,000	45 (11.6%)		1.600	.741	3.454	1.433	1	.231
Over \$100,000	12 (3.1%)		Reference					

		PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE					
Variable		Odds Ratio	95 % Confidence Interval		Chi-Square		
(N=468)	Category	OR	CI		Wald	df	Sig.
Have a paid job: partner							
Yes	330 (70.5%)	1.305	1.034	1.649	5.004	1	.025
No	138 (29.5%)	Reference					
Shiftwork: partner n=330							
Yes	78 (23.6%)	1.127	.844	1.504	.654	1	.419
No	252 (76.4%)	Reference					
Income of partner (per year) n=358							
Nil-\$26,000	96 (26.8%)	1.003	.686	1.465	.000	1	.989
\$26,001-52,000	96 (26.8%)	1.159	.796	1.689	.594	1	.441
\$52,001-100,000	105 (29.3%)	1.313	.908	1.897	2.099	1	.147
Over \$100,000	61 (17.0%)	Reference					
Run joint bank accounts							
Yes	371 (79.3%)	.735	.564	.959	5.154	1	.023
No	97 (20.7%)	Reference					
Women in debt							
Less than \$50,000	87 (18.9%)	.569	.308	1.204	2.894	1	.179
Over \$50,000	36 (7.7%)	.373	.158	.884	5.115	1	.031
No debt	323 (69.0%)	Reference					
Joint debt							
Less than \$100K	97 (20.7%)	.519	.247	1.103	4.198	1	.136
\$100-200K	52 (11.1%)	.629	.363	1.089	2.745	1	.098
Over \$200K	92 (19.7%)	.732	.441	1.214	1.465	1	.226
No debt	198 (42.3%)	Reference					
Smokers: women							
Yes	90 (19.2%)	.605	.458	.800	12.408	1	.000
No	378 (80.8%)	Reference					
Smokers: men							
Yes	89 (19.0%)	.889	.679	1.165	.725	1	.394
No	379 (81.0%)	Reference					
Drug use: women							
Yes	30 (6.4%)	.433	.266	.703	11.424	1	.001
No	438 (93.6%)	Reference					
Drug use: men							
Yes	32 (6.8%)	.363	.222	.591	16.589	1	.000
No	436 (93.2%)	Reference					
Risky drinking: women n=464							
Yes	149 (32.1%)	.864	.691	1.081	1.639	1	.200
No	315 (67.9%)	Reference					
Risky drinking: men n=462							
Yes	204 (44.2%)	1.254	1.013	1.553	4.339	1	.037
No	258 (55.8%)	Reference					

F) Prevalence of Social-psychological Abuse:

The prevalence of social-psychological abuse of the female partner in Queensland

		SOCIAL-PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE						
Variable			Odds Ratio	95 % Confidence Interval		Chi-Square		
(N=344)	Category		OR	CI		Wald	df	Sig.
De facto v		277 (80.5%)	1.305	.965	1.764	2.988	1	.084
Married		67 (19.5%)	Reference					
Years in relationship								
Less than 5 Years		45 (13.1%)	.246	.326	.695	14.746	1	.000
5 to 15 Years		92 (26.7%)	.807	.615	1.060	2.366	1	.124
Over 15 years		207 (60.2%)	Reference					
Age in years (respondent): Mean=46.63, SD=14.513			.987	.978	.995	9.222	1	.002
Age groups: respondent								
Less than 35years	72 (20.9%)		.657	.470	.918	6.055	1	.014
35 to 44 years	87 (25.3%)		.856	.627	1.168	.962	1	.327
45 to 54 years	76 (22.1%)		.935	.678	1.290	.167	1	.683
Over 55 years	109 (31.7%)		Reference					
Age in years (partner): Mean=49.65, SD=15.815			.990	.982	.998	5.663	1	.017
Age groups: partner								
Less than 35years	62 (18.0%)		.579	.410	.819	9.562	1	.002
35 to 44 years	78 (22.7%)		.932	.684	1.270	.201	1	.654
45 to 54 years	75 (21.8%)		.944	.690	1.292	.128	1	.720
Over 55 years	129 (37.5%)		Reference					
Education self: senior school (56.1% senior school or less)			.991	.877	1.121	.020	1	.888
Education partner: senior school (55.65% senior school or less)			.915	.805	1.014	1.829	1	.176
Country of birth: respondent								
Australia	287 (83.4%)		.999	.624	1.601	.000	1	.998
Others	57 (16.6%)		Reference					
Country of birth: partner								
Australia	277 (80.5%)		1.382	.910	2.098	2.304	1	.129
Others	67 (19.5%)		Reference					
Children								
Yes	300 (87.2%)		1.376	.968	1.957	3.157	1	.076
No	44 (12.8%)		Reference					
Have a paid job: respondent								
Yes	192 (55.8%)		.991	.783	1.254	.006	1	.938
No	152 (44.2%)		Reference					
Shiftwork: respondent n=192								
Yes	46 (24.0%)		.637	.437	.928	5.524	1	.019
No	146 (76.0%)		Reference					
Income of women (per year) n=289								
Nil-\$26,000	155 (53.6%)		.888	.363	2.170	.068	1	.794
\$26,001-52,000	93 (32.2%)		.695	.281	1.719	.621	1	.431
\$52,001-100,000	35 (12.1%)		.880	.340	2.276	.070	1	.792
Over \$100,000	6 (2.1%)		Reference					

		SOCIAL-PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE					
Variable		Odds Ratio	95 % Confidence Interval		Chi-Square		
(N=344)	Category	OR	CI		Wald	df	Sig.
Have a paid job: partner							
Yes	247 (71.8%)	1.179	.907	1.533	1.519	1	.218
No	97 (28.2%)	Reference					
Shiftwork: partner n=247							
Yes	54 (21.9%)	1.261	.907	1.753	1.902	1	.168
No	193 (78.1%)	Reference					
Income of partner (per year) n=276							
Nil-\$26,000	74 (26.8%)	.720	.463	1.120	2.127	1	.145
\$26,001-52,000	72 (26.1%)	.852	.548	1.324	.508	1	.476
\$52,001-100,000	94 (34.1%)	.768	.503	1.174	1.488	1	.223
Over \$100,000	36 (13.0%)	Reference					
Run joint bank accounts							
Yes	253 (73.5%)	.498	.378	.658	24.162	1	.000
No	91 (26.5%)	Reference					
Women in debt							
Less than \$50,000	77 (22.4%)	.418	.171	1.037	6.093	1	.126
Over \$50,000	22 (6.4%)	.397	.142	1.118	3.096	1	.082
No debt	233 (67.8%)	Reference					
Joint debt							
Less than \$100K	67 (19.5%)	.443	.194	1.021	4.224	1	.104
\$100-200K	40 (11.6%)	.495	.258	.951	4.451	1	.035
Over \$200K	74 (21.5%)	.540	.294	.993	3.932	1	.047
No debt	146 (42.4%)	Reference					
Smokers: women							
Yes	71 (20.6%)	.566	.418	.765	13.731	1	.000
No	273 (79.4%)	Reference					
Smokers: men							
Yes	76 (22.1%)	.708	.531	.945	5.509	1	.019
No	268 (77.9%)	Reference					
Drug use: women							
Yes	23 (6.7%)	.447	.268	.747	9.434	1	.002
No	321 (93.3%)	Reference					
Drug use: men							
Yes	24 (7.0%)	.399	.239	.666	12.353	1	.000
No	320 (93.0%)	Reference					
Risky drinking: women n=341							
Yes	131 (38.4%)	1.228	.963	1.566	2.745	1	.098
No	210 (61.6%)	Reference					
Risky drinking: men n=341							
Yes	167 (49.0%)	1.565	1.236	1.983	13.780	1	.000
No	174 (51.0%)	Reference					

G) Prevalence of Non-physical Abuse:

The prevalence of non-physical (emotional) abuse of the female partner in Queensland

		NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE						
Variable			Odds Ratio	95 % Confidence Interval		Chi-Square		
(N=610)	Category		OR	CI		Wald	df	Sig.
De facto		518 (84.9%)	1.371	1.034	1.818	4.814	1	.028
Married		92 (15.1%)						
Years in relationship								
Less than 5 Years		60 (9.8%)	.721	.510	1.020	3.418	1	.064
5 to 15 Years		153 (25.1%)	.953	.759	1.196	.172	1	.679
Over 15 years		397 (65.1%)	Reference					
Age in years (respondent): Mean=47.96, SD=14.034			.994	.987	1.001	2.484	1	.115
Age groups: respondent								
Less than 35years	111 (18.2%)		.854	.642	1.134	1.191	1	.275
35 to 44 years	153 (25.1%)		.960	.745	1.238	.098	1	.754
45 to 54 years	134 (22.0%)		1.064	.819	1.382	.218	1	.641
Over 55 years	212 (34.7%)		Reference					
Age in years (partner): Mean=51.02, SD=15.130			.998	.991	1.004	.464	1	.469
Age groups: partner								
Less than 35years	87 (14.3%)		.849	.626	1.151	1.111	1	.292
35 to 44 years	132 (21.6%)		1.119	.868	1.444	.754	1	.385
45 to 54 years	141 (23.1%)		.975	.757	1.255	.039	1	.844
Over 55 years	250 (41.0%)		Reference					
Education self: senior school (55.1% senior school or less)			.993	.897	1.099	.020	1	.888
Education partner: senior school (53.0% senior school or less)			.960	.863	1.067	.586	1	.444
Country of birth: respondent								
Australia	499 (81.8%)		1.197	.817	1.754	.848	1	.357
Others	111 (18.2%)		Reference					
Country of birth: partner								
Australia	487 (79.8%)		1.399	.975	2.007	3.326	1	.068
Others	123 (20.2%)		Reference					
Children								
Yes	552 (90.5%)		.906	.657	1.248	.365	1	.546
No	58 (9.5%)		Reference					
Have a paid job: respondent								
Yes	328 (53.8%)		1.118	.921	1.359	1.268	1	.260
No	282 (46.2%)		Reference					
Shiftwork: respondent n=328								
Yes	63 (19.2%)		.890	.637	1.244	.464	1	.496
No	265 (80.8%)		Reference					
Income of women (per year) n=504								
Nil-\$26,000	291 (57.7%)		1.072	.535	2.148	.039	1	.844
\$26,001-52,000	142 (28.2%)		1.091	.536	2.218	.057	1	.811
\$52,001-100,000	58 (11.5%)		1.277	.605	2.695	.411	1	.522
Over \$100,000	13 (2.6%)		Reference					

		NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE					
Category		Odds Ratio	95 % Confidence Interval		Chi-Square		
(N=610)	Category	OR	CI		Wald	df	Sig.
Have a paid job: partner							
Yes	441 (72.3%)	1.178	.946	1.467	2.155	1	.142
No	169 (27.7%)	Reference					
Shiftwork: partner n=441							
Yes	98 (22.2%)	1.280	.980	1.672	3.290	1	.070
No	343 (77.8%)	Reference					
Income of partner (per year) n=469							
Nil-\$26,000	121 (25.7%)	.907	.633	1.300	.282	1	.596
\$26,001-52,000	127 (27.1%)	.991	.695	1.413	.002	1	.961
\$52,001-100,000	149 (31.8%)	1.027	.728	1.450	.023	1	.878
Over \$100,000	72 (15.4%)	Reference					
Run joint bank accounts							
Yes	480 (78.7%)	.668	.521	.855	10.213	1	.001
No	130 (21.3%)	Reference					
Women in debt							
Less than \$50,000	122 (20.0%)	.515	.260	1.025	5.175	1	.106
Over \$50,000	40 (6.6%)	.443	.195	1.010	3.786	1	.059
No debt	420 (68.9%)	Reference					
Joint debt							
Less than \$100K	121 (20.0 %)	.542	.277	1.070	12.527	1	.117
\$100-200K	68 (11.4%)	.654	.400	1.070	2.853	1	.091
Over \$200K	128 (21.0%)	.707	.451	1.109	2.276	1	.131
No debt	254 (41.6%)	Reference					
Smokers: women							
Yes	113 (18.5%)	.611	.468	.796	13.265	1	.000
No	497 (81.5%)	Reference					
Smokers: men							
Yes	120 (19.7%)	.822	.641	1.054	2.378	1	.123
No	490 (80.3%)	Reference					
Drug use: women							
Yes	37 (6.1%)	.421	.261	.680	12.497	1	.000
No	573 (93.9%)	Reference					
Drug use: men							
Yes	38 (6.2%)	.371	.228	.605	15.797	1	.000
No	572 (93.8%)	Reference					
Risky drinking: women n=605							
Yes	203 (33.6%)	.936	.762	1.149	.402	1	.526
No	402 (66.4%)	Reference					
Risky drinking: men n=603							
Yes	276 (45.8%)	1.422	1.167	1.732	12.218	1	.000
No	327 (54.2%)	Reference					

