

Title: Our Watch, Respectful Relationships Education

Date: April 2023

Our Watch Respectful Relationships Education - The evidence



Our Watch's role in building the evidence base for best practice respectful relationships education (RRE)

Our Watch is the national leader in the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia. The organisation was established in 2013 by the Victorian and Australian Governments, under the Council of Australian Government's *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022*. Since then, all state and territory governments across Australia have joined as members.

Our vision

An Australia where women are free from all forms of violence.

Our role

To stop violence before it starts. Our Watch is the national leader in the primary prevention of violence against women.

Our Watch takes a whole of population approach, working to prevent violence and embed gender equality in all the places where people live, learn, work and socialise. We work in partnership with a diverse range of community, government, and corporate organisations to promote and support a shared, evidence-based approach to addressing the drivers of violence against women. We do this to create the nationwide systemic and cultural change needed to stop this violence before it starts.

Since inception Our Watch has prioritised RRE as a key area of work. This reflects the critical importance of RRE as a strategy for the prevention of violence against women, which has a robust and established evidence base, which demonstrates its efficacy.

Respectful relationships education is the holistic approach to school-based, primary prevention of gender-based violence.

It uses the education system as a catalyst for generational and cultural change by engaging schools, as both education institutions and workplaces, to comprehensively address the drivers of gender-based violence and create a future free from such violence.

Our Watch has played a recognised leadership role in RRE in Australia, developing the evidence base that supports it, supporting policy development and implementation in several jurisdictions, and facilitating information sharing and coordination of policy and practice.

Our Watch's leadership in Australia has included delivering two pilots of respectful relationships education:

- **Delivery of the Respectful Relationships Education in Secondary Schools (RREiSS)** pilot in 19 Victorian secondary schools in 2015. This pilot formed the basis of the Victorian Government's current, system-wide approach, which is now implemented in over 1,950 schools from Foundation to Year 12
- **Delivery of the Respectful Relationships Education in Primary Schools (RREiPS)** pilot in two jurisdictions in Australian, Queensland and Victoria (2016 - June 2019)

Through these pilots Our Watch has contributed to the evidence-base on designing and implementing effective approaches to respectful relationships education.

Comprehensive evaluation reports from both Australia school-based pilots can be sourced here:

- [**Respectful Relationships Education in Primary Schools – Lessons from a multi-year pilot in primary schools \(2021\)**](#)
- [**Respectful Relationships in Schools, the beginnings of change \(2016\)**](#)

Our Watch has also developed a suite of supporting tools, resources and reports including:

- [**Respectful relationships education toolkit**](#). First developed in 2015 and updated in 2022, this support schools in understanding, planning, implementing, and sustaining a whole-of-school approach. It consists of [**an overview**](#), providing evidence and explaining the components of a whole-of-school approach, [**and an implementation guide**](#), outlining actions to be undertaken at each stage of the implementation cycle.
- [**Respectful relationships education in schools: Evidence paper \(2021\)**](#). A review of international and national evidence and technical guidance on violence prevention in schools, including material from multi-lateral organisations such as UN Women, UNESCO and the World Health Organisation. The paper summarises the findings to guide future actions by education systems to end violence against women.
- [**Respectful relationships education as part of a national approach to preventing gender-based violence: a brief for policy makers \(2021\)**](#). This policy brief provides guidance to education policy makers, bureaucrats and other stakeholders on how to design, implement, coordinate and monitor evidence-based respectful relationships education.
- Development of Our Watch's [**Respectful Relationships Education website \(2019\)**](#), providing a suite of free, high-quality tools and resources to support respectful relationships education in primary and secondary schools.

More information

For more information about Our Watch, including the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia please visit:

www.ourwatch.org.au

For information on best practice **respectful relationships education** in Australia, please visit:

<https://education.ourwatch.org.au/>

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