

# Cash cows facing starvation

Feminists have milked family violence funding for too long

BETTINA ARNDT

Amidst all the politicking in America over Trump's wall and the spending bill, one excellent result has been the demise of the *Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)*. The feminists have lost their huge cash cow which funded domestic violence organisations across America to find new ways of demonising men.

VAWA was created in the early 1990's to go after wife-beaters, targeting men but never women, for perpetrating domestic violence. Although the law pretended to be gender-neutral, the massive funding to feminist advocacy groups ensured men would be routinely arrested for domestic violence (even if the men were actually victims of women's violence rather than perpetrators.) The law weaponised the legal system, providing excuses for police and government agencies to punish men for any behaviour deemed unacceptable to the feminists.

What is extraordinary is that VAWA gained such a grip despite the abundant evidence that the essential premise of the feminist campaign was wrong. There's now been over 40 years of research showing most family violence is two-way involving both male and female perpetrators, women instigate violence more often than men in couple relationships and children are mainly at risk from their mothers.

Yet the feminist domestic violence industry rolled on, endlessly widening the net of alleged perpetrators by expanding the definition of domestic violence to include threats of violence and emotional and financial abuse. Domestic violence accusations became the weapon of choice for providing women with advantages in all manner of situations. I recently made a YouTube video about widespread immigration fraud where foreign women marry American men and then use VAWA as a speedy path to permanent residency.

Now Republicans have spat the dummy and refused to reauthorise the Act. VAWA is dead in the water. This is very good news for American men and women who care about fair treatment for

both genders.

Meanwhile in Australia our feminists' cash cow might also face lean times. Speaking to government ministers late last year, I discovered the huge domestic funding package introduced four years ago by Malcolm Turnbull is about to run out. Turnbull's first major move as Prime Minister was to hand over a hundred million dollars to promote a massive lie about domestic violence – that it is all about respect for women. In fact, there's no good evidence that respect for women

*Feminists are in a lather lobbying government not to turn off the tap*

or gender inequality are relevant factors underpinning domestic violence in egalitarian countries like Australia.

Over the past year or two Senator David Leyonhjelm has been grilling bureaucrats in Senate estimates committees about their failure to produce evidence supporting this assertion, which was used to justify that atrocious \$30m Respect television advertising campaign featuring the little boy slamming the door in the girl's face. All the public servants came up with was international data which shows such an effect in misogynist countries like Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia but not in progressive Western cultures.

Just recently a study published in the *Lancet* examined domestic violence data from 66 surveys in 44 countries. The study came up with a list of societal norms leading to domestic violence against women like: acceptance of male authority over female behaviour; norms justifying wife beating; law and practices which disadvantage women compared with men in access to land or property. None of these conditions apply to Australia. The underlying basis of the massive government expenditure on domestic violence is totally wrong.

Yet the domestic violence industry simply forges ahead, using the Turnbull funding for promoting feminist myths. I have just released another YouTube video

looking at a new campaign from OurWatch, a key government body working to end violence against women. The organisation has produced a series of videos urging young men to intervene when other blokes voice opinions OurWatch claims trigger domestic violence. The one I featured shows a group of young people in a restaurant who are stunned into silence when a young man suggests women are too emotional to be CEOs of large companies.

Of course, most people would challenge that view but OurWatch suggests it should be *verboten* to even voice such a thought. Their website sports a list of items they claim promote disrespect towards women which includes: 'thinking or saying women can't do all the same jobs as men.'

So here we have OurWatch, which receives over \$6m in annual government funding, using domestic violence as an excuse for social engineering and issuing feminist prescriptions controlling our behaviour. There are dozens of such domestic violence propaganda organisations across the country, all happily engaged in promoting myths about this important social issue. Meanwhile the real problems underpinning domestic violence are not addressed, more children grow up in violent homes and the cycle continues.

But now their funding is threatened, and the feminists are in a lather lobbying the government not to turn off the tap. Governments usually only ever hear from one side on this issue – namely from the bloated feminist bureaucracy being supported by that funding and the feminist Twitter mobs that back them. But now the government is asking the community to get involved, to give feedback on the current campaigns and suggestions regarding alternate approaches.

I'm providing the relevant ministers with a summary of the vast amount of literature now available about the true nature of family violence and what we can actually do to reduce it. I've been writing about domestic violence research for many years. All my major articles are included in my new book, *#MenToo*, which incidentally is the #1 best-selling gender studies book on amazon.com.au. Isn't that a hoot?

I'm asking people to help with my new campaign, based around a petition addressed to Kelly O'Dwyer, the Minister for Women, urging an evidence-based approach to domestic violence. It's a campaign to End Violence Against Everyone – not just women. Let's starve this dangerous, feminist cash cow.

*To view Bettina's videos, sign her petition and help promote her message go to [bettinaarndt.com.au](http://bettinaarndt.com.au)*