

THE FINANCIAL COST OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The human cost of violence against women and girls is immeasurable. Beyond the emotional and physical toll on victims, **violence carries significant, quantifiable financial costs** — to individuals, governments and communities — and holds back the full economic potential of Australia and the world.¹

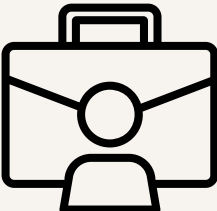


Reported violence against women and their children in Australia was costed at \$22B in 2015–16.¹



\$10.9B / yr³

Gendered financial abuse: \$5.7B borne directly by victims, plus \$5.2B in productivity and welfare impacts.



9.4 percentage pts⁴

Employment gap for women who experienced economic abuse in the past five years: 72.0% employed, vs 81.4% who had not.



\$1.88B / yr⁵

New Australian research estimates sexual violence at ~\$980M for child sexual abuse and ~\$900M for adult sexual assault each year.

WHERE THE \$22 BILLION GOES¹

	Pain & suffering	Long-term psychological and physical health effects; premature mortality	\$10.4B
	Consumption	Replacing damaged property, defaulting on bad debts, moving costs	\$4.4B
	Production	Absenteeism and employer administrative costs	\$1.9B
	Administrative	Police, incarceration, courts, counselling and prevention programs	\$1.7B
	Health system	Public and private health costs treating the effects of violence	\$1.4B
	Second generation	Child protection, children living with violence and later crime impacts	\$333M
	\$10.9B/yr Gendered financial abuse — \$5.7B borne directly by victims, \$5.2B lost to the economy in productivity.		

SOURCES

[1] KPMG & DSS, *The cost of violence against women and their children in Australia*, 2016
[3] Deloitte Access Economics & Commonwealth Bank, *The cost of financial abuse in Australia*, 2022
[5] Perks & Gilchrist, *The Lifetime Price of Harm*, UWA / Allambee, 2025

[2] ABS, *Consumer Price Index, Australia*, latest release, 2026
[4] UTS, *The cost of domestic violence to women's employment*, 2025
[6] AIHW, *Family, domestic and sexual violence: economic and financial impacts*

AUSTRALIA TODAY

Beyond the economics, the human reality of violence against women in Australia remains urgent — and some groups carry a far heavier burden than others.

28

women were killed by a current or former intimate partner in 2025¹.

On average, one woman is killed by a partner every 9 days in Australia.

1 IN 4 WOMEN (23%) HAVE EXPERIENCED INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE SINCE AGE 15².



Nearly 1 in 3 female victims of intimate partner homicide in 2025 identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander — First Nations women remain disproportionately affected.³

39%



of women have experienced violence since age 15 (2 in 5).⁴

22%



of women have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime.⁵

49%



of LGBTQIA+ people have experienced sexual assault.⁶



\$128 billion

could be added to the Australian economy by boosting women's workforce participation to match men's — turning safety into shared prosperity.

Australia's National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032 set a 10-year ambition to end gender-based violence in one generation. The domestic homicide rate has more than halved since 1989–90 — but family, domestic and sexual violence remains, in the words of the Prime Minister, a ***national crisis***.

SOURCES

[1] ABS, Personal Safety, Australia 2021–22

[3] AIHW, Sexual violence, 2025 update

[5] DSS, National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032

[2] Our Watch, Quick facts about violence against women

[4] AIHW/AIC, Domestic homicide dashboard 2024–25 / NHMP

[6] Australian Government, Status of Women Report Card 2026

A SNAPSHOT ACROSS THE GLOBE

03

\$1.5 TRILLION

Gender-based violence costs the world economy this much every year — roughly 2% of global GDP. In the hardest-hit countries, losses reach 3.7% of GDP: more than many nations spend on education.¹

United States

\$3.6T

Estimated cost to the U.S. economy over victims' lifetimes. Annual IPV costs alone exceed \$8 billion.²

European Union

€289B

Annual cost to the EU — around 79% of the €366B total economic burden of all gender-based violence.³

Brazil

R\$50B

Annual cost to Brazil. Lost productivity from domestic violence alone equals ~1.2% of national GDP.⁴

Afghanistan 47% GDP

Relative cost of violence in 2022 — among the world's highest. Excluding women from work costs ~\$1B; banning girls from school costs \$500M+ a year.⁵

Palestine

\$86.5M

Estimated annual economic cost of violence against women (NIS 297.45 million).⁶

Australia

\$29B

Cost of violence against women & their children, every year, in today's dollars — victims & survivors bear the largest share.⁶

SOURCES

[1] World Bank / UN Women, *Safety Unlocks Opportunity*, 2025

[3] CDC, *Lifetime economic burden of intimate partner violence*

[5] UN Women / Sawasya JP, *economic cost of violence against women in Palestine*, 2026

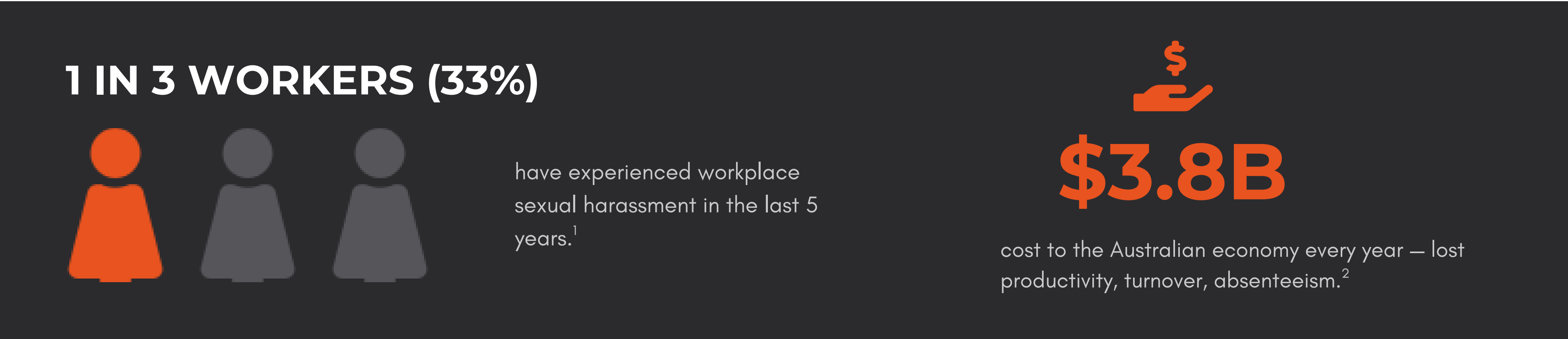
[2] EIGE, *Costs of gender-based violence in the European Union*, 2025

[4] UN Women / UN DESA, *Progress on the SDGs: The Gender Snapshot 2025*

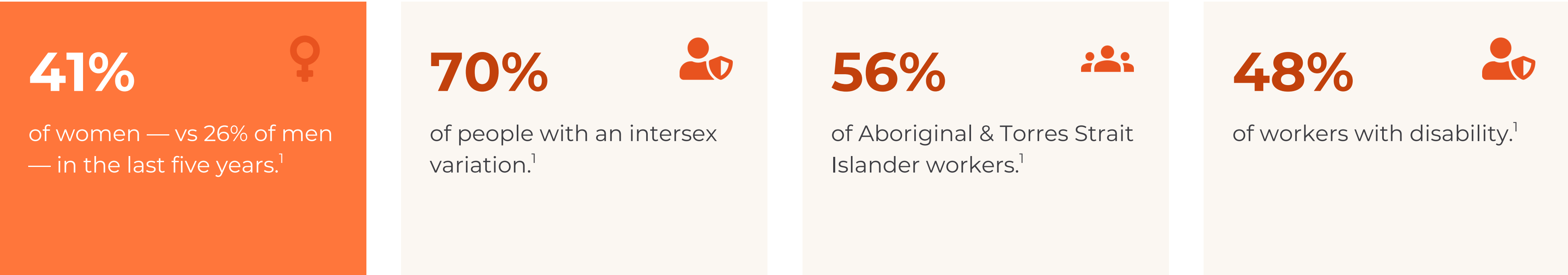
[6] KPMG & DSS, *The cost of violence against women and their children in Australia*, 2016

HOW COMMON IS WORKPLACE HARASSMENT?

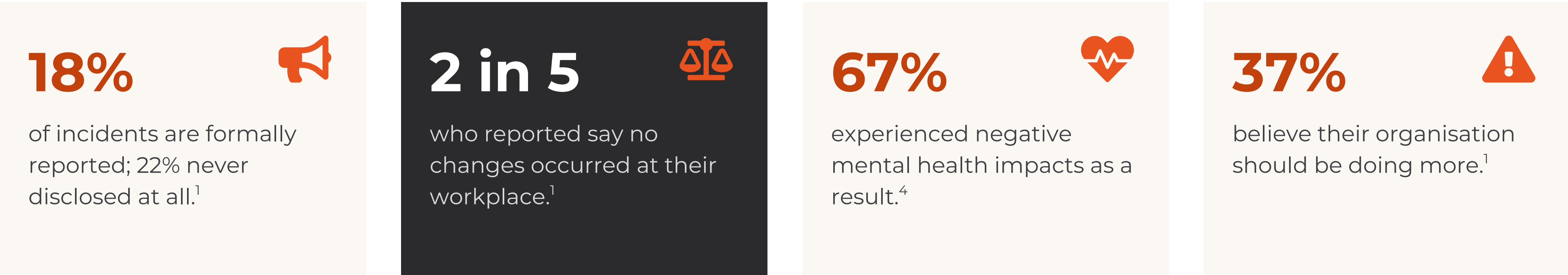
Sexual harassment remains an unacceptably common feature of Australian workplaces. Despite the Positive Duty introduced in 2023, reporting stays low and outcomes for those who come forward are often disappointing.³



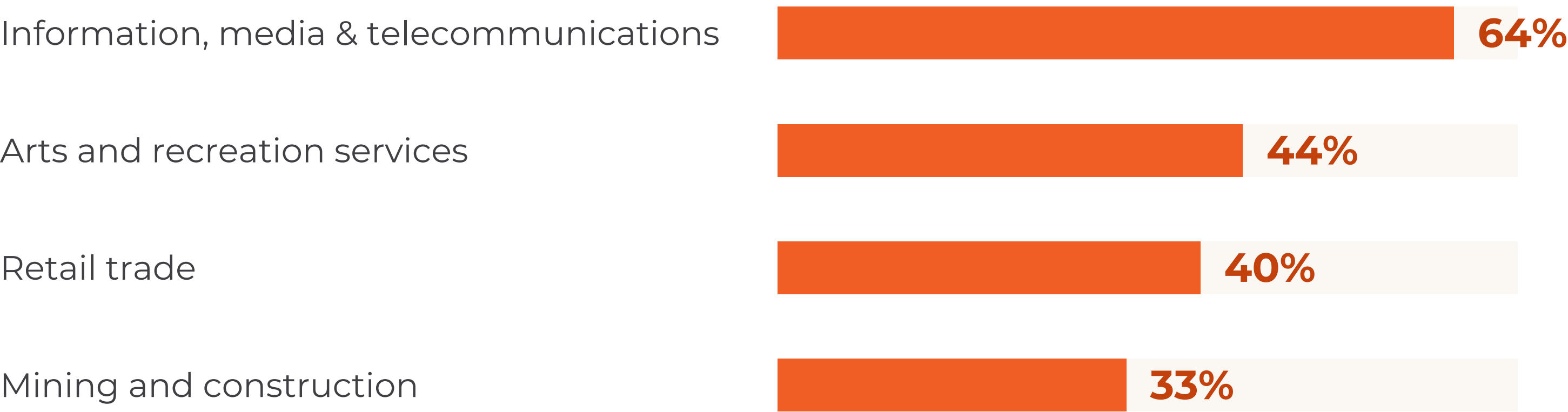
WHO IS MOST AFFECTED



REPORTING AND IMPACT



HIGHEST-RISK INDUSTRIES



SOURCES

[1] Australian Human Rights Commission, *Time for Respect*, 2022
[3] Our Watch, *Quick facts about violence against women*

[2] Deloitte Access Economics, *The economic costs of sexual harassment in the workplace*, 2020
[4] AHRC, *Time for Respect* infographics, 2022

When Harassment Is Reported, What Happens Next?

Reporting workplace sexual harassment takes courage — but speaking up doesn't always lead to accountability, and can come at a personal cost.



10%

of people said their employer took disciplinary action against the harasser.¹



13%

said their employer didn't take any action that they were aware of.²



10%

reported that they were punished for speaking up.³

“Nearly 1 in 4 workers say they would do nothing if they witnessed sexual harassment at work.”



Every woman deserves to feel safe — at home, at work, everywhere.

The data is clear: violence against women carries an enormous human and economic toll, yet accountability remains rare. **Safe Everywhere Always** is UN Women Australia's platform for fundraising and action to end violence against women and girls.

WAYS TO TAKE ACTION



Speak up

Challenge harmful jokes and behaviour when you see them.



Support survivors

Listen without judgement and connect them to specialist services.



Donate or fundraise

Back **Safe Everywhere Always** to fund frontline prevention work.

SOURCES

[1] Diversity Council Australia, New DCA data on sexual harassment at work, 2026

[2] UN Women Australia, Safe Everywhere Always campaign

[3] Australian Human Rights Commission, Time for Respect, 2022