

Our Research



Understanding the Issue

At VALER, we believe data matters. Without real insights, real change isn't possible. Women's safety is more than just a talking point—it's a pressing issue that affects workplaces, public transport, events, and healthcare settings. Research shows that women face disproportionately high risks of violence, harassment, and digital threats. Alarming, 80% of women report feeling unsafe in their workplaces, and public transport remains a significant area of concern. The fear and anxiety caused by these threats impact women's participation in social and professional environments.



Our Approach

VALER's research takes a data-driven, community-centred approach to identifying and addressing safety concerns. Our methodology includes:

- **Community Engagement:** We prioritise the voices of women through surveys, social studies, and direct storytelling, ensuring their lived experiences shape our findings.
- **Evidence-Based Insights:** Our research incorporates statistical data, crime reports, and social sentiment analysis to uncover the realities of women's safety in Australia.
- **Intersectional Focus:** We consider how different factors—including cultural background, occupation, and geographic location—impact safety perceptions and experiences.
- **Actionable Recommendations:** We develop targeted strategies for workplaces, public spaces, and policymakers to enhance safety measures and harm prevention.

Key Findings

Our research across **Phase 1** and **Phase 2** revealed critical insights:

- **No Place Feels Completely Safe:** Women experience heightened unease in workplaces, public transport, healthcare settings, and large events.
- **Workplace Safety is a Major Concern:** 80% of women feel unsafe at work, with risks including harassment, stalking, and aggression.
- **Transport and Events are High-Risk Areas:** 85% of women report feeling unsafe on public transport at least some of the time, and nearly 80% express similar concerns at major events.
- **Healthcare Settings Pose Unexpected Risks:** Women feel unsafe in hospitals, medical clinics, and while accessing general healthcare services, with concerns around neglect and mistreatment.
- **Digital Threats Are Escalating:** Cyber harassment, doxxing, and AI-based exploitation are rising concerns, particularly for women in public-facing professions.
- **Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Women Face Additional Barriers:** Many underreport incidents due to lack of trust in reporting systems or fear of repercussions.
- **Geographic Differences Matter:** Women in rural and regional areas report unique safety concerns, including isolation and lack of accessible resources.
- **High-Risk Industries and Settings:** Women working in healthcare, education, childcare, retail, and hospitality face increased exposure to workplace violence and harassment. Late-night shifts, customer interactions, and isolated working conditions amplify these risks.

Why This Research Matters

Women's safety is not just a personal concern—it affects economic participation, public health, and social well-being. Our findings highlight systemic gaps in workplace safety policies, transport security, and digital protections. Ensuring women's safety requires policy changes, stronger reporting mechanisms, and improved public infrastructure.

Impact and Harm Reduction

VALER's research drives meaningful change by:

- Informing government and corporate policies to integrate safety measures.
- Supporting organisations in conducting women's safety audits.
- Advocating for community-driven safety initiatives.
- Raising awareness on emerging threats such as digital harassment and AI-based exploitation.

Our Commitment

As a community enterprise, we believe that safety research should be accessible to all. VALER's findings are publicly available to empower individuals, workplaces, and policymakers in creating safer environments for women. We envision a world where

women feel safe, valued, and courageous. Through research, advocacy, and collaboration, we are working towards making that vision a reality.

For more information, visit www.valer.com.au
