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NT News

## Violence study cops a caning

I AM writing about the use of incorrect statistics in your recent story "Focus on violence, energy drinks, polar bears" (Nov 25).

Your story said "one in every three boys thinks it is OK to hit girls". This "statistic" was published in error by the White Ribbon Foundation, who admitted the mistake on ABC website <http://www.abc.net.au/news/corrections/>.

I quote: "On Monday November 17, 2008 ABC News Online and ABC Radio carried stories reporting the findings of a study into the impact of violence on young people. The study was commissioned by the White Ribbon Foundation. It reported, in part, that 'one in every three boys believe it is not a big deal to hit a girl'. The author of the report, Dr Michael Flood, has advised the ABC that this finding was, in fact, wrong. Dr

Flood's team transposed information in compilation of that part of the report. The original report by the National Crime Prevention 2001 study, on which much of the White Ribbon report was based, made no reference to 'boys hitting girls'. In fact it referred to 'girls hitting boys'."

The original National Crime Prevention study found that "while males hitting females is seen, by virtually all young people surveyed, to be unacceptable, it appears to be quite acceptable for a girl to hit a boy."

In the interests of responsible journalism, I hope you will consider publishing a similar erratum in your newspaper.

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