

# Preventive sexual and reproductive health care content in Australia pre-registration nursing and midwifery programs: a review of curricula

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## Background

- Preventive sexual and reproductive health (PSRH) care has the potential to significantly improve women's health.
- Internationally, nurses & midwives largely provide this care.
- It is not known how PSRH is undertaken in Australian nursing & midwifery pre-registration curricula.

## Aim

To review PSRH content in pre-registration nursing and/or midwifery programs in Australia.

## Results

### Characteristics

- From 37 universities', 86 pre-registration degrees were identified.
- 92 individual units in nursing / midwifery were reviewed.
- The most frequent pre-registration course is BN.

### PSRH Content

- Explicit PSRH mostly appeared in learning outcomes listed in the unit outlines (47.7% n=44).
- Six categories of PSRH content were identified that aligned with the 2017 WHO SRH framework areas.

'Reproductive health' was the most common topic (n=102, 54.8%): including preconception care, family planning, and contraception.

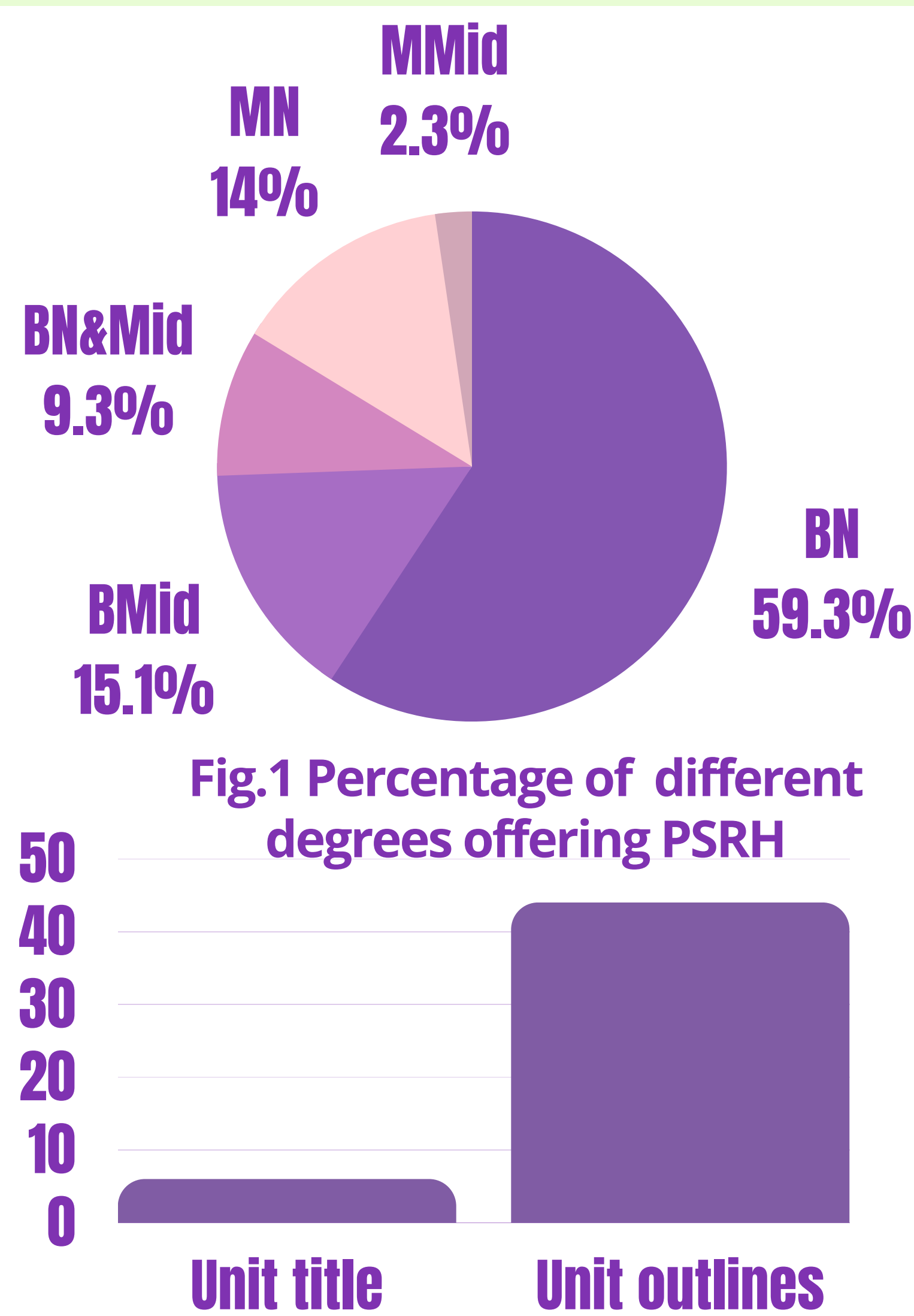


Fig. 2 Frequency of explicit PSRH content by unit

Sexual health, Screening, Violence, Reproductive health, Cultural care, General/Broad PSRH terms

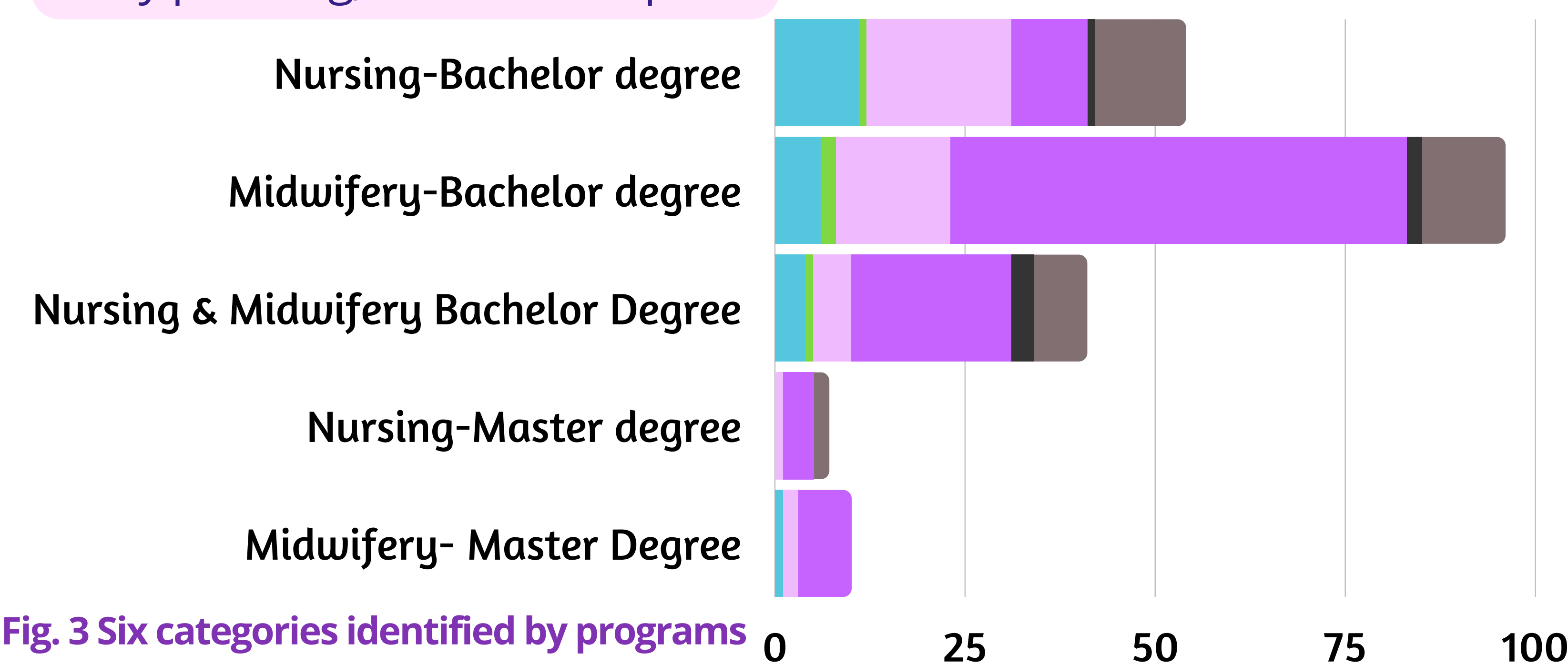
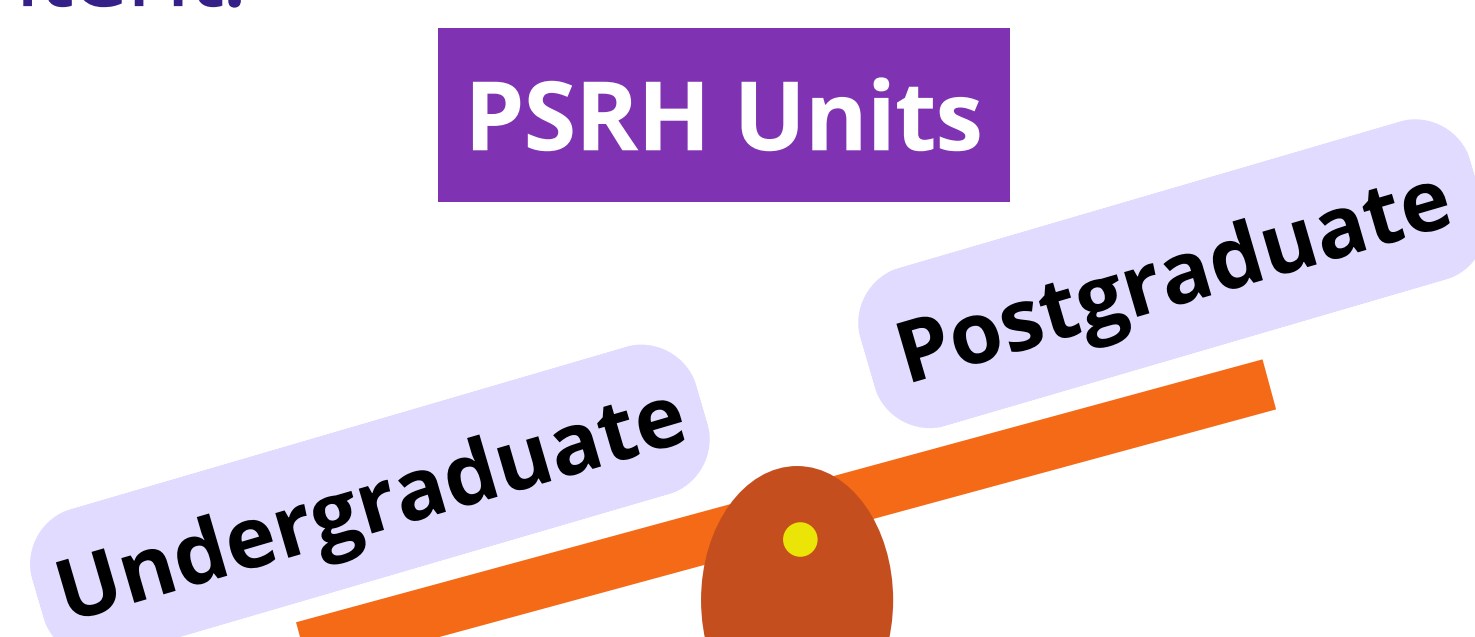


Fig. 3 Six categories identified by programs

- PSRH was scattered across different courses and lacked detail about the comprehensiveness of PRSH content.
- Pre-registration courses included more PSRH education at undergraduate level (83.7%,n=72) than postgraduate level.



## Methods

### A cross-sectional study

- Data extracted from the publicly available websites of Australian universities offering pre-registration nursing and midwifery programs.

### Data Analysis

- Inductive— (from the data) content analysis approach guided the analysis.
- Deductive —using a developed terminology matrix from the 2017 WHO PSRH content framework and existing literature.

## Conclusion

- Publicly available program information suggests that minimal PSRH content is provided in preregistration nursing and midwifery programs.
- Adequate PSRH preparation of pre-registration nursing and midwifery students can influence the provision of comprehensive PSRH care.
- In Australia, there are no guidelines for PSRH course content. Universities and lecturers can decide how this content is included.
- It is crucial to ensure that PSRH curriculum is informed by guidance and frameworks that inform this care.
- Curriculum needs to address population needs and include the content to prepare nurses and midwives with the knowledge and skills required to provide high-quality PSRH care.

## Implications

- Comprehensively cover **abortion care** in nursing and midwifery curricula.
- Nursing/midwifery clinicians need to pursue further post-registration training for PSRH care.
- There is a need for the development and delivery of abortion care as well as culturally aware and trauma-informed training.
- Core PSRH content needs to be included in existing pre-registration nursing and midwifery curricula in line with the WHO SRH framework.

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