



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Social Services**

**Ray Griggs AO CSC**  
**Secretary**

Ref: EC24-001182

Ms Ella George  
Chair, Legislative Assembly Legal and Social Issues Committee  
Parliament House  
Spring Street  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Ms George

Thank you for the opportunity for the Department of Social Services (the department) to provide a submission to the *Inquiry into the mechanisms for capturing data on the profile and volume of perpetrators of family violence in Victoria and barriers to achieving a full understanding of this cohort* (the Inquiry).

While the department will not provide a dedicated submission to the Inquiry, the department would like to advise the Committee of complementary efforts underway at the national level to improve data and research around the perpetration of family, domestic and sexual violence (FDSV) which may assist the Committee.

The Prime Minister convened a National Cabinet meeting on 1 May 2024 (National Cabinet meeting) to discuss the national crisis of gender-based violence. At this meeting, First Ministers agreed to build and strengthen efforts currently underway under the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032* (the National Plan).

Following the National Cabinet meeting, the Commonwealth announced it would undertake a rapid review of approaches to prevent gender-based violence, to be led by an expert panel. The Government is investing \$1.3 million over 2 years through the 2024-25 Federal Budget to support the panel, who will provide practical advice to Government on further action to prevent gender-based violence, including consideration of opportunities to engage men in supporting these efforts.

In undertaking this work, the Panel will:

- Look at opportunities to strengthen prevention efforts and approaches across all forms of violence against women and children, including a particular focus on perpetration of FDSV and homicide.
- Consider targeted approaches to preventing violence, with a focus on identifying what works across the life cycle and for different groups of people.
- Engage with determinants, risk factors, pathways and intersecting factors for gender-based violence, including different and emerging forms of violence, and the role of key industries.

- Consider whole of system opportunities for prevention and intervention, including stronger accountability and consequences for people who choose to use violence.
- Identify opportunities to effect attitudinal change and accelerate progress to prevent violence against women and children, including at a local level.

The final report to the Commonwealth Government will be delivered to the Minister for Social Services, the Minister for Women, and the Prime Minister, to inform the Commonwealth come back to National Cabinet in the third quarter of 2024. Without pre-empting the advice of rapid review panel, I anticipate its final report may have some relevance for the Inquiry.

The 2024-25 Federal Budget also includes \$4.3 million to Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) to further build the evidence base on pathways into and out of perpetration. This will include an environmental scan of the research, evaluation and data on perpetration to identify gaps and inform government on priority areas for investment. ANROWS will then commission research specific to the priority areas to address knowledge gaps.

In addition, ANROWS received funding through the October 2022-23 Budget to establish a National Priority Research Fund. One of the priorities of the Fund is to build knowledge and understanding of the factors correlated with men perpetrating violence. Successful grants focused on perpetration and men's use of violence are due to be announced in June 2024 with successful projects published on the ANROWS website.

ANROWS has also published a number of papers and reports on perpetrator interventions which may be relevant to your inquiry: [www.anrows.org.au/research-areas/perpetrator-interventions/](http://www.anrows.org.au/research-areas/perpetrator-interventions/).

The Commonwealth also supports the continued development of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) Criminal Justice Data Asset (CJDA) which will provide critical data on people who use violence. This data asset aims to enhance the suite of national crime and justice data by forming a longitudinal and enduring nationally linked up criminal justice dataset from the state and territory criminal justice agencies, including Victoria. This will form part of the evidence base to monitor the progress of the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032* (National Plan).

Action 2 of the First Action Plan of the National Plan commits to *Improve the national evidence base by working towards consistent terminology and monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and by strengthening collection and sharing of data and evidence*. The Australian Government, states and territories are working together to implement Action 2 through the Outcomes Framework and Performance Measurement Plan under the National Plan. As part of this work a data development plan is also currently in development. Published documents under the National Plan can be found here: [www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence](http://www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence).

The First Action Plan recognises more data and research focusing on people who use violence is required to inform national policies.

The department supports Victoria's efforts in producing the Family Violence Database (FVDB), updated annually by the Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, and its continuing efforts in improving integration of data from different sources to generate insights about priority cohorts and local areas.

I wish the Committee success in its Inquiry. Should the Committee want to follow up with the department, please contact Tim Crosier, National Policy Branch Manager, Ending Gender-Based Violence Group at [REDACTED]

The department is happy for this letter to be published on the Committee website.

Yours sincerely

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12 June 2024