



Judge Ian L Gray
State Coroner
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3006

Dear Judge Gray

Re: Court reference 2012/4184 – Inquest into the death of: Sargun RAGI

I write in response to your *Findings into the death of Ms Sargun RAGI*, delivered on 30 October 2015. In your finding you referenced the Community Legal Centres (CLCs) recommendations 8 and 10 to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) and sought a response in relation to the recommendations.

The recommendations and DIBP's responses are outlined below:

Recommendation 8:

That the DIBP should seek the consent of women who report domestic and family violence to the Police so that the intersecting migration and family violence issues can be dealt with in an integrated way.

Department's response to recommendation 8:

The Department offers a referral service to all visa holders and applicants who are alleged victims of family violence, including referral to the Police. The Department's Family Violence Unit (FVU), which is based in Melbourne, currently responds to all referrals it receives relating to family violence, regardless of whether the visa applicant or holder is eligible to access the family violence provisions or not. The FVU undertakes the following actions:

- confirms the person's immediate safety from physical harm;
- refers the person to the Police if their safety is in question;
- refers the person to support services in their local area (for example, refuge, shelter), including the 1800 RESPECT hotline;
- explains the family violence provisions as they relate to visa applications and;
- where the person is able to apply for permanent residence on family violence grounds, explains the evidentiary requirements for lodging a valid application and case manages the applicant to ensure a speedy resolution of the application.

Recommendation 10:

That any person who is a victim of family and domestic violence should be case managed by the DIBP family violence team who should be trained in the common risk assessment framework and operate in an integrated way with the police, courts and specialist family violence services who are engaged with the person.

Department's response to recommendation 10:

The Department accepts the recommendation to train members of the FVU team in the common risk assessment framework for dealing with victims of family and domestic violence.

In addition to this, and as explained in response to recommendation 8, the Department:

- currently case manages all persons who claim to be a victim of family violence where they are eligible to be considered for a visa on family violence grounds; and
- advises all clients, regardless of whether or not they are eligible to be granted permanent residence on family violence grounds, of the availability and contact details of police and support services.

Yours sincerely



Christine Dacey
Acting First Assistant Secretary
Visa and Citizenship Management Division

31 May 2016