



**Senator the Hon Anne Ruston**

**Minister for Families and Social Services  
Minister for Women's Safety  
Senator for South Australia  
Manager of Government Business in the Senate**

Ref: MB22-000209

Coroner Darren Bracken  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Coroner Bracken

Thank you for your letter of 11 March 2022 regarding your investigation into the death of [REDACTED].

Firstly, I wish to express my sincere condolences to [REDACTED] family and friends for their loss.

Women's safety is a key priority for the Australian Government. The 2022–23 Federal Budget committed a further \$1.3 billion to support the next *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032*. This brings the Government's recent investment in women's safety initiatives to \$2.5 billion. These commitments address — prevention, early intervention, response and recovery — because we know that these are key to ending gendered violence.

I have instructed officials in my department to engage with the Department of Health to ask that the Health Minister, raise making social workers and counsellors subject to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) or a similar scheme at the next Health Ministers Meeting.

The accreditation/registration of social workers was also raised during consultations for *Safe and Supported: the new National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021–2031*. My department is exploring this issue under the National Framework's implementation plans.

Yours sincerely

Anne Ruston

5/4/2022