

CLICK HERE TO ENTER TEXT.



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ANDREW FISHER BUILDING
ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON

Reference: MS25-000010

Kate Sanderson
Coroner's Registrar, Coroners Support Services
Coroners Court of Victoria
cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Registrar

Thank you for your letter of 10 December 2024 regarding the Coroners Court of Victoria's investigation into the death of Thi Minh Phuong Nguyen (reference number: COR 2021 000964).

On behalf of the Australian Government, I extend my sincere condolences to the family of Thi Minh Phuong Nguyen for their loss. I also thank Coroner Judge Cain for his findings and recommendations.

I acknowledge that recommendation 2 of the Finding into Death without Inquest recommends the Government commit to long-term funding for the development and maintenance of critical infrastructure for the primary prevention of violence against women and family violence, as well as for agencies that play a key role in supporting prevention activities at a national level.

The Australian Government is committed to ending gender-based violence in one generation, and will continue to work together with the states and territories to prevent this violence by changing the underlying social drivers as well as addressing the attitudes and systems that drive violence against women and children.

While the Commonwealth reserves its position on whether it is bound by section 72(3) of the *Coroners Act 2008* (Vic), noting and recognising the important role of the Coroners Court of Victoria in investigating and preventing deaths, the Government provides the following response to recommendation 2.

I hope this response is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Walter', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Andrew Walter
First Assistant Secretary, Government Division
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
13 March 2025

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF THI MINH PHUONG NGUYEN

RECOMMENDATION 2

The Federal Government commit to long term funding for the development and maintenance of critical infrastructure for the primary prevention of violence against women and family violence as well as for those agencies that play a key role in influencing the quality, reach, impact and coordination of prevention activities at a national level, as outlined by Our Watch in *Change the Story: A Shared Framework for the Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women in Australia*. These include:

- i. Our Watch (to provide independent national leadership on primary prevention)
- ii. Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS)(to deliver the National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey and the prevention elements of the national research agenda)
- iii. Australian Bureau of Statistics (to deliver the Personal Safety Survey)
- iv. Workplace Gender Equality Agency.

RESPONSE

The Government is committed to ending violence against women and children. The Government's actions to end this national crisis are guided by the *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032* (the National Plan), the overarching national policy framework that highlights how all parts of society need to work together to end gender-based violence in one generation.

The National Plan highlights the need to prevent gender-based violence, by changing underlying social drivers of violence and addressing the attitudes and systems that drive violence against women and children. It also acknowledges the importance of addressing the gendered drivers along with the reinforcing factors of violence against women. As such, the Government is taking a multi-layered approach to ending this violence and has made significant investments in prevention, early intervention, response, and recovery and healing initiatives.

In July 2024, the Government committed a total of \$77.6 million over five years to states and territories and the non-government school sector to deliver Respectful Relationships Education (RRE) programs in schools across Australia. RRE been identified as a key long-term measure to build positive attitudes in young people towards issues such as consent and healthy, safe respectful relationships. This includes providing students and young people with the knowledge and skills to better communicate with one another, make responsible shared decisions, understand consent, resolve conflict, and engage in healthy and positive relationships. This program promotes healthy interactions between boys and girls and is a key measure in the First Action Plan that underpins the National Plan.

In addition to the Government's roll out of RRE across schools, significant work has been done to develop new, and build on existing, national campaigns to change attitudes and behaviours that drive gender-based violence. For example, additional phases of the Stop it at the Start campaign have been funded by the Government. Phase 5, which launched in June

2024, aims to increase awareness amongst adults of the new and negative online and offline influences impacting young people and their behaviours towards disrespect and violence against women. Additionally, in May 2024 the Government launched a new national consent campaign to help reduce the incidence of sexual violence across the country by improving community understanding and attitudes on consent and respectful relationships.

In 2024, National Cabinet agreed that ending gender-based violence would be an ongoing priority. This followed two National Cabinet meetings in May and September 2024 for focused discussion on the national crisis of gender-based violence, and to agree to practical next steps to accelerate action to end gender based violence in a generation and deliver on the National Plan. This work also responds to the Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches (the Rapid Review). The Rapid Review, led by a multi-disciplinary expert panel, examined evidence-based approaches to prevent gender-based violence and provided specific and practical advice to strengthen these approaches. The Women and Women's Safety Ministerial Council (the Council), which includes Commonwealth, state and territory Ministers for women and women's safety, is overseeing governments' response to the Rapid Review over time. At its meeting on 22 November 2024, the Council agreed to focus its collective and immediate effort in 2025 on three of the key areas highlighted in the Rapid Review report, *Unlocking the Prevention Potential: Accelerating action to end domestic, family and sexual violence*. These areas include men's behaviour change, risk assessment and workforce.

In response to National Cabinet, the Commonwealth will also provide additional investment for initiatives to support the National Plan and address gender-based violence, such as:

- a. \$366.9 million to extend the National Partnership Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses, which will deliver funding to States and Territories for services providing frontline support to women and children experiencing domestic and family violence;
- b. \$82.4 million for key initiatives to strengthen responses to high-risk perpetrators to prevent homicide and keep women safe;
- c. \$81.3 million to enhance and expand child-centric trauma-informed supports for children and young people, with a specific focus on First Nations children and young people;
- d. establishing national standards for men's behaviour change;
- e. reviewing and updating the *National Framework for action to prevent alcohol-related family violence*; and
- f. conducting an audit of key Commonwealth government systems to identify where they are being weaponised by perpetrators of family and domestic violence, to stamp out opportunities for systems abuse.

The Government also recognises organisations that play a critical role in influencing the quality, reach, impact and coordination of prevention activities at a national level, and has made significant investments in these organisations to enable them to continue their important work. This includes a commitment of \$100.4 million in the 2022-23 Budget over five years to support Our Watch to continue its important work as Australia's national leader for the primary prevention of gender-based violence, including funding for The Line – Our Watch's primary prevention social marketing, behavioural change campaign. The Government has also made significant further investments in Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS), including an additional \$4.3 million in the 2024-25 Budget to further build the evidence base on pathways in and out of perpetration of family, domestic and sexual violence.

The Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) collects and publicly reports on harm prevention in workplaces, including sexual harassment, harassment on the ground of sex or discrimination, and family and domestic violence. WGEA collects data from the private and Commonwealth public sector employers with 100 or more employees about their policies, strategies and actions to prevent and respond to sexual harassment, harassment on the ground of sex or discrimination in the workplace. In 2021-22, WGEA received \$4.4 million over 4 years to implement recommendations 42 and 43 of the Respect@Work report which resulted in WGEA collecting and reporting data on sexual harassment in Australian workplaces and, for the first time, collecting and reporting on workplace gender equality data from public sector organisations including on sexual harassment. The Government remains committed to addressing gender inequality in Australian workplaces including through supporting the important role of WGEA.

The investments outlined above support the provision of informed evidence-based policy advice to Government to ending gender-based violence, and strengthen efforts to intervene earlier to prevent men perpetrating violence against women and children.