



Secretary

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

50 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Telephone: 1300 475 170
GPO Box 1774
Melbourne Victoria 3001
www.dffh.vic.gov.au

BAC-CO-52770

Kate Sanderson
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Support Service
Coroners Court of Victoria

By email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Sanderson,

I refer to your correspondence of 10 December 2024, attached with a Form 38 issued to the Victorian Government requiring a response to the recommendations made in Coroner Judge Cain's Finding into Death Without Inquest (Finding) of Ms Thi Minh Phuong (Sophie) Nguyen (ref COR 2021 000964).

I would like to express my deepest condolences to those family members and loved ones who are managing the impact of Ms Nguyen's tragic death.

The Coroner's recommendation

In relation to the Victorian Government, Coroner Judge Cain made the following recommendation in his Findings:

The Victorian Government urgently increase the total quantum of primary prevention funding and prioritise longer term funding across the primary prevention system, including multi-year funding for organisations leading prevention activities, and stable, ongoing funding for Respect Victoria.

Response to recommendation 1

The Coroner's recommendation is being implemented.

The Victorian Government is committed to addressing family violence, with more than \$4 billion invested to prevent and respond to family violence in Victoria since the Royal Commission into Family Violence in 2016. This includes over \$450 million invested in primary prevention and gender equality initiatives.

Victoria's primary prevention efforts are driven by the 10-year Free from Violence strategy. The strategy focuses on preventing violence at pivotal stages of life and in all the places where Victorians live, work, learn and socialise. The range and scale of primary prevention activities Victoria has progressed under this strategy is nation leading, with 107 individual prevention projects supported in 2023-24.

Respect Victoria is a vital partner of the Victorian Government. As Victoria's dedicated primary prevention agency, Respect Victoria is delivering effective behaviour change campaigns, resulting in widespread community awareness and engagement. Respect Victoria also collaborates with the primary prevention sector to strengthen prevention action across the state; monitors data published on the Family Violence Data Platform; and advises government on effective primary prevention policies and practices.

Primary prevention is a long-term set of interconnected interventions to stop violence before it starts. We know that more needs to be done to achieve the generational change required to shift the attitudes and behaviours that drive violence. The Victorian Government will continue to support organisations leading prevention activities, including Respect Victoria.

In the 2024-25 State Budget, the Victorian Government committed \$141.9 million over four years in the Prevention of Family Violence portfolio, to help keep women and children safe, hold perpetrators to account and support victim survivors. Outside of the Prevention of Family Violence portfolio, the 2024-25 State Budget also provided \$18.3 million funding over two years for 12 women's health services in Victoria to promote the health and wellbeing of women and girls and build capacity to undertake primary prevention of family violence and violence against women. In addition, a further \$39.1 million funding over four years was provided for the Respectful Relationships education program in schools and early childhood services.

The Strengthening Women's Safety Package announced on 30 May 2024 supplemented this investment with a range of initiatives, including a new four-year 'saturation model' to be established in Ballarat. The saturation model brings together every part of the community to deliver a coordinated prevention approach and is being led and delivered by Respect Victoria. It also announced more intensive training and support for staff teaching Respectful Relationships and an invitation for more non-government schools to join Respectful Relationships education, supported by startup funding and professional learning.

The Department notes Judge Cain's second recommendation that the Commonwealth Government commit to long term funding for agencies that play a key role in influencing the quality, reach, impact and coordination of prevention activities at a national level. Victoria continues to advocate for evidence-based primary prevention to remain a core pillar of national efforts to prevent family and sexual violence.

Should you require further information, please contact Melanie Heenan, Deputy Secretary
Family Safety Victoria [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. McCammon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peta McCammon
Secretary

21/03/2025