

OFFICIAL



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ANDREW FISHER BUILDING
ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON

Reference: MS25-000448

Kate Sanderson
Coroner's Registrar, Coroners Support Services
Coroners Court of Victoria
[REDACTED]

Dear Registrar

Thank you for your letter of 19 May 2025 regarding the Coroners Court of Victoria's investigation into the death of [REDACTED] (reference number: COR 2021-006564).

On behalf of the Australian Government, I extend my sincere condolences to the family of [REDACTED] for their loss. I also thank Coroner Judge Cain for his findings and recommendations.

I acknowledge that the recommendation of the Finding into Death without Inquest recommends the Victorian Government work with the Commonwealth Government to expand the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) framework to include National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) service providers in Victoria and make them MARAM-prescribed entities.

The Australian Government is committed to supporting the NDIS and the housing services sector to support the wellbeing and needs of all Australians, including individuals requiring additional support, and Australians experiencing housing insecurity and family, domestic and sexual violence. The Government will provide \$8.9 million over three years from 2025-26 to improve and expand support services for vulnerable Australians, including Australians experiencing housing insecurity and family, domestic and sexual violence, supporting the implementation of the *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032*.

In addition, the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission) would welcome engagement with the Victorian Government to understand the requirements for prescribed bodies under MARAM and potential applicability in the NDIS context, noting the NDIS is currently in a period of regulatory reform following recommendations by the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability and the NDIS Review. There are significant differences in the classes of disability supports

offered by NDIS providers, who may be registered or unregistered, ranging from high intensity 24-hour disability supports to supports where there is limited or no interaction between NDIS providers and people with disability. It will be useful to understand the expectations on MARAM prescribed entities in the context of NDIS providers who may be delivering different types of services.

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

I hope this response is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. Walter', with a stylized flourish underneath.

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

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE
INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF [REDACTED]

RECOMMENDATION (i)

That the Victorian Government work with the Commonwealth Government to expand the MARAM framework to include NDIS service providers in Victoria and make them MARAM-prescribed entities

RESPONSE

The Government notes this recommendation.

The Government is committed to mitigating the experiences of family, domestic and sexual violence experienced by individuals facing housing insecurity, and provision of support services through the NDIS.

The Government is committed to providing national leadership and investment to end violence against women and children in all its forms, and deliver on the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032* (the National Plan).

At its 6 September 2024 meeting, National Cabinet agreed on practical actions to accelerate ending gender based violence in a generation, including working in partnership with states and territories to better identify high risk perpetrators, share information about them across systems and state boundaries, and intervene early to stop violence from escalating. This includes the development of new national best practice family and domestic violence risk assessment principles and a model best practice risk assessment framework (the Framework). Further information on this and other National Cabinet commitments can be found here: www.pm.gov.au/media/meeting-national-cabinet-7.

National Cabinet's actions were also guided by the valuable contributions of the Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches (the Rapid Review), which recommended that governments improve operational information sharing across and within jurisdictions to support consistent approaches to risk assessment, modelled on the Victorian Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme. On 7 February 2025, the Data and Digital Ministers Meeting agreed the fourth National Data Sharing Work Program would produce national guidance to enable best-practice family and domestic violence information sharing.

Furthermore, existing risk identification process are in place within the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to support NDIS participants. In June 2024, the Government established the Justice Advisory Panel to provide advice on policy and systemic issues between state and territory justice systems and people with disability leaving custody who are current or potential NDIS participants. The panel provides advice on how NDIS supports can work with other system supports to improve participant outcomes, manage community safety, and the risks of re-offending. The NDIA is guided by an escalation and prioritisation matrix to inform when actions or decisions need to be fast tracked. This prioritisation can occur where there are factors present, such as risk of harm to the health or well-being of a person, or risk associated with the nature of the person's disability. Dependent on the assessed level of risk, the NDIA will work to action the request within 2-15 days.