



Senator the Hon Marise Payne

**Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Women
Senator for New South Wales**



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: MS21-000373

Mr Andrew Wallace MP
Member for Fisher
Chair of Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services
Chair of Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs
PO Box 6021 Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear ^{Andrew}Chair

We are writing to update you on the Australian Government's consideration of the House Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs (the Committee) report of its inquiry into family, domestic and sexual violence (the Inquiry).

We would like to thank the Committee for conducting this important Inquiry, which we referred to help inform the development of the successor to the *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010–2022* (the National Plan). The Inquiry has provided an important opportunity to hear from a range of victim-survivors, individuals and organisations to strengthen our understanding of the profound and long lasting impacts family, domestic and sexual violence has on Australian women, children, families, and communities.

As the Committee will be aware, the Government is committed to improving women's safety. As part of the 2021-22 Women's Budget Statement, the Government is investing \$1.1 billion to prevent and respond to violence against women and their children over the next four years. This investment spans 16 new women's safety measures and includes measures focused on prevention, financial support for women escaping violence, creating a safe online space for women and children, working with perpetrators, support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and other priority groups, support for children experiencing violence and building a strong evidence base.

This investment builds on the work of the Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan, and supports a seamless transition to the next National Plan, which is due to commence in mid-2022.

The Department of Social Services, in collaboration with the Office for Women, is leading the Government response to the Inquiry and has completed initial consultations with other Commonwealth departments that have policy responsibility for recommendations.

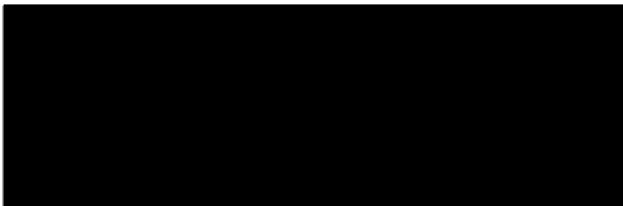
As you are aware, the Government response will be informed by the approach to the development of the next National Plan to end violence against women and children (next National Plan). Significant national consultation activities to inform the development of the next National Plan are currently underway, including feedback from those with lived experience, and will build on the Committee's work in undertaking the Inquiry and its report.

Any Government response to the Inquiry prior to the release of the next National Plan would pre-empt decisions regarding the next National Plan and will not have the benefit of considering the outcomes of the extensive consultation processes underway. This includes the outcomes from the National Summit on Women's Safety, occurring on 6-7 September 2021, which will directly inform the next National Plan.

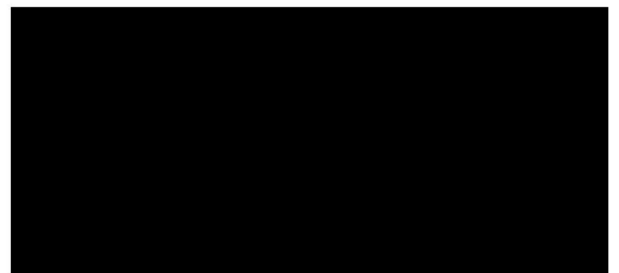
On this basis, we are writing to inform you that the Government response will be provided after finalising the next National Plan. As per the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's Tabling Guidelines, we provide this statement in accordance with the House of Representatives resolution on *Government responses to Committee reports* of 29 September 2010.

Once again, we appreciate your leadership as Chair and the work of other members of the Committee for the findings of the Inquiry, providing a valuable and extensive report that is being actively considered as we work towards finalising the next National Plan.

Yours sincerely



MARISE PAYNE



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