



Australian Women Against Violence Alliance

Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee  
By email: [legcon.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:legcon.sen@aph.gov.au)

13 July 2018

**Re: Family Law Amendment (Family Violence and Cross-examination of Parties) Bill 2018**

Dear Secretary,

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide advice in response to the Family Law Amendment (Family Violence and Cross-examination of Parties) Bill 2018.

*About the Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA)*

Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) is one of the six National Women's Alliances funded by the Australian Government to bring together women's organisations and individuals across Australia to share information, identify issues and contribute to solutions. AWAVA's focus is on responding to and preventing violence against women and their children. AWAVA's role is to ensure that women's voices and particularly marginalised women's voices are heard by Government, and to amplify the work of its member organisations and Friends and Supporters. AWAVA's members include organisations from every State and Territory in Australia, representing domestic and family violence services, sexual assault services, and women's legal services, as well as organisations representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, young women, women educators, women in the sex industry and other groups. AWAVA's lead agency is the Women's Services Network (WESNET).

*Endorsement of Women's Legal Services Australia submission*

AWAVA endorses our member organisation Women's Legal Services Australia's submission to this inquiry. Together with WLSA, we congratulate the Government for introducing long overdue legislation to ban the direct cross-examination of family violence victims/survivors by their abusers in the family court system, but note the need for proper funding and further reform.

For further details of AWAVA's position on measures to end direct cross-examination in cases of domestic and family violence before the family courts, please refer to our submission on the Family Law Amendment (Family Violence and Cross-examination of Parties) Bill 2017—Public Consultation on Cross-examination Amendment. This submission is available online at <https://awava.org.au/2017/09/15/submissions/submission-family-law-amendment-family-violence-cross-examination-parties-bill-2017-public-consultation-cross-examination-amendment>

Thank-you once again for the opportunity to provide input to this inquiry. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the issues further. For further information, please contact Merrindah Andrew using the details below.

Yours faithfully,

Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA)

Merrindah Andrew, Program Manager  
Phone: