



**Australian Government**  
**Attorney-General's Department**

30 October 2025

Mr Josh Burns MP  
Chair, Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Chair,

I am writing to provide you with an update on the Attorney-General's Department's (the department) procurement to establish a national support service for non-offending family members of child sexual abuse perpetrators under the *National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2030* National Action Plan measure 10 (NAP 10).

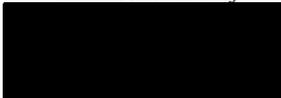
In its submission to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit on 17 October 2025 the department advised it was progressing contract negotiations with the preferred tenderer. Ahead of the public hearing for the *Inquiry into the procurement of mandated national support and advocacy services for victims of child sexual abuse*, the department wishes to inform the committee that, unfortunately, agreement was unable to be reached through negotiations on contract terms and the preferred tenderer has withdrawn from the procurement process. The process has therefore been cancelled as of today, 30 October 2025.

The cessation of these negotiations is not related to the findings of the Australian National Audit Office's report on *Conduct of Procurements Relating to Two New Child Sexual Abuse-related National Services* but does reflect the department's obligation to ensure that the delivery of this service is underpinned by ethical, fair and robust procurement practices and is consistent with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.

The department remains committed to establishing a national support service for non-offending family members of child sexual abuse perpetrators and is considering next steps to urgently progress the procurement and delivery of this critical national service. The department acknowledges the concerns about the impact of these delays on the vulnerable people this service intend to support, and encourages those who require support to engage with existing services, which are listed on [childsafety.gov.au/get-support](https://childsafety.gov.au/get-support).

The department looks forward to the opportunity to answer questions at the public hearing on Friday 31 October 2025.

Yours sincerely

  
Lauren Barons  
Assistant Secretary, National Office for Child Safety  
Attorney-General's Department

Cc: Office of the Attorney-General