



27 September 2024

Royal Commissioner Natasha Stott Despoja AO
Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and
Sexual Violence

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Dear Royal Commissioner Natasha Stott Despoja AO

I am writing on behalf of Premier's Council for Women (PCW). The Council was created in 2002 with the primary role of providing the Hon Premier and Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence with insight into issues pertaining to South Australian women, advocating on behalf of women, monitoring how policies and programs impact on women and providing recommendations, information and advice to facilitate a whole of Government approach to ensuring that programs and services match women's needs.

We represent a diverse range of voices: our membership includes women in business, creative arts, defence, civil society, healthcare and technology. Together, we are determined to highlight the voices of women in all our diversity and their importance in creating a fair and equitable society.

Our current work plan aligns with the vision set out in the Women's Equality Blueprint 2023-26, acknowledging that women's safety is essential to achieving gender equality and that gender inequality is a key driver of family, domestic and sexual violence, harassment and discrimination.

In November 2023, four women in South Australia lost their lives in alleged cases of domestic homicides. In response to this horrific and devastating loss of life, a rally was held at Parliament House on Friday, 24 November 2023. The rally advocated for the establishment of a Royal Commission into gender-based violence in South Australia.

Acknowledging the Premier's Council for Women (PCW) objective to advocate on behalf of women on issues that impact South Australian women, and that a key pillar of the Council's work is women's safety, Council members attended the rally. Attendance at this rally provided PCW members an opportunity to focus our attention on what our state and community needs to build a better future for women.

In addition to a Royal Commission, the Council also acknowledges that immediate action is needed to support and protect women and girls experiencing violence now.

Consultations:

The Premier's Council for Women provided a response to the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children consultation (February 2022) regarding the

importance of data collection, the importance of victim-survivor voices including the voices of children as victims in their own right, support for research into men's behaviour change programs, for greater focus on primary prevention and early intervention activities, to liaise with the women's safety sector to identify gaps and needs as is critical to building an effective response, and the identification of male leaders or champions in their communities to promote as role models.

It should also be recognised that for First Nations peoples, systemic issues in support services such as access, equity and racism impacts women and children's utilisation of these services and further disadvantages women and children. Self-determination, strength-based and trauma-informed approaches to co-designing support services for First Nations people would ensure that joint participation and community empowerment are at the centre of decision making.

Opportunities

Since 2022, the Premier's Council for Women has been contacted twice by members of the public via a publicly available email address regarding personal circumstances of domestic violence, abuse, stalking and intervention orders. We note that communication indicated multiple contacts with safety services, police and support services but described unsatisfactory outcomes and feel let down. The women involved contacted us as the avenues open to them had been exhausted and asked primarily for their circumstances to be acknowledged.

We are interested for the Royal Commission to look into ways to capture or review data such that no person's experience 'falls through the gaps' of services.

We offer our continued support and advice to the Royal Commission and invite the Royal Commissioner to meet with the Premier's Council for Women to discuss any aspect of our work in this area.

Yours sincerely



Ms Fiona Dorman
Chair, Premier's Council for Women
27 / 09 / 2024

On behalf of all members of the Premier's Council for Women:

Marli Smith
Kelly Baker Jamieson
Shingi Mapuvire

Karen Briggs
Nerida Saunders
Kirsty Mundy

Kimberley Wanganeen