



Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of
Domestic and Family Violence

1 William Street Brisbane Q 4000
GPO Box 149 Brisbane Q 4001
Telephone +61 7 3719 7400
Email attorney@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Our ref: 595721/2; 6181028

Your ref: A865052

10 JUN 2022

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to e-Petition 3732-22 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 11 May 2022, titled *Domestic and family violence services are urgently needed for Southern Downs residents*.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the on-going and committed advocacy of the Southern Downs Women's Advocacy and Action Team. Like the petitioners, the Queensland Government remains committed to the prevention of gendered violence and discrimination.

This petition requests the House to call upon federal colleagues to implement the Jenkins recommendations; and to recognise and commit to rectifying the unmet needs of women and children impacted by gendered violence in the Southern Downs region.

In May 2021, I requested the Queensland Human Rights Commission (QHRC) consider the ongoing efforts of the Palaszczuk Government to implement the Sex Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkins' *Respect@Work: Sexual Harassment National Inquiry Report* (referred to by the petitioners as the Jenkins recommendations) under an overarching review of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*. The Terms of Reference for the QHRC's review can be found here: <https://www.qhrc.qld.gov.au/law-reform/about-the-review/terms-of-reference>. The QHRC has committed to providing its report to me by 30 July 2022.

I am also pleased to inform the petitioners that the newly elected Federal Government has committed to full implementation of all 55 recommendations of *Respect@Work*.

Since the release of the landmark *Not Now, Not Ever* Report in 2015, the Queensland Government has committed record investment of more than half a billion dollars for domestic and family violence services, including \$155 million towards women and violence prevention as part of the 2021-22 Budget. In the Department of Justice and Attorney-General's South West region (which includes the Southern Downs), funding for women's and violence prevention services topped \$23 million in this financial year. Whilst this investment has led to positive progress in the Southern Downs and across the state, we know there is still more to do to ensure our state is free of gender-based violence and discrimination.

Investment by government in domestic and family violence services was a key focus of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce (the Taskforce) Report *Hear her voice – Report One – Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland* (the Report).

(2)

There were several positive findings regarding current service system responses to domestic and family violence, but the Taskforce also found that there are still difficulties in integrating and coordinating services and investment at both local and state-wide levels. I recognise that there is work to be done to ensure all Queenslanders who have experienced domestic and family violence can access appropriate services and supports and will continue to work with the DFV sector to improve outcomes across the system.

In response to the Report, the Queensland Government has committed to developing a five-year whole-of-government DFV service system strategic investment plan. The investment plan will provide a long-term and structured approach to ensure the Government is investing in services that better respond to existing and future demand. This commitment, and others in response to the Taskforce's Report, are set out in the Queensland Government response to the Report. Eighty-four of the Report's recommendations were for the Queensland Government and we have supported them all. I invite the petitioners to read the full Government response here: <https://www.justice.qld.gov.au/initiatives/queensland-government-response-womens-safety-justice-taskforce-recommendations>.

I thank the petitioners for bringing their concerns to the attention of the House.

Yours sincerely



Shannon Fentiman MP

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

Member for Waterford