

The Hon Jodie Harrison MP

Minister for Women

Minister for Seniors

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault



Ref: SGM23/3151

NSW State Coroner
Magistrate Teresa O'Sullivan
Coroners Court
1A Main Avenue
LIDCOMBE NSW 2141

By email: magistrate.osullivan@courts.nsw.gov.au

Dear Magistrate O'Sullivan,

The NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Report 2019-2021

I write on behalf of the NSW Government to acknowledge receipt of the NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team (**DVDRT**) 2019-2021 Report tabled in NSW Parliament on 19 December 2022.

The DVDRT and Secretariat are to be commended on their delivery of a uniquely focused Report. I acknowledge the heavy and impactful work of producing the case review summaries, data analysis, and associated findings.

The deaths documented through this important work are heartbreaking and unacceptable. The NSW Government must take meaningful action now. It will require whole of government collaboration, and every portfolio and department in our state must work together to address the pervasive scourge of domestic violence.

The complex themes and issues arising from the cases reviewed in the Report highlight several crucial areas of the NSW Government's response where we need to be doing better, including:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Recognising children as victim-survivors in their own right and tailored service delivery
- Improved risk assessment and safety planning
- Interagency collaboration

I also commend the DVDRT's ongoing work on recognition and response to both promote greater awareness and understanding of the complexity of domestic violence and to strengthen the response system.

These areas are priorities for the NSW Government. They are recognised in the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Plan 2022-2027 and will be driven by the focus and

commitment to implement this plan and its vision. The investment being made to support work to achieve Closing the Gap Target 13, the ongoing commitment to address coercive control and its complexities, and the role of the NSW Women's Safety Commissioner are just some of the ways we are working towards a NSW that is free from domestic violence.

Many of the issues and themes raised by the Report are mirrored in the national agenda and the NSW Government will continue to work very closely with the Commonwealth, states, and territories to progress shared work across Australia.

This shared work, particularly through the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032, will assist in amplifying responses to the areas of concern raised by this important Report.

Next Steps

I will be reviewing work underway across government to progress outstanding and implementable recommendations made by the DVDRT to support the shared goal of positive systems and service improvements. This will include seeking advice on challenges with implementation and where required, alternative methods of implementation. Consultation with the DVDRT will be essential to this work and I look forward to collaborating with the Team.

The NSW Government will also reflect on the findings from this Report in the development of the NSW Aboriginal Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Plan, and the implementation of this plan.

We are committed to the vision that 'all people and communities are free from domestic, family and sexual violence', and the whole-of-government work that needs to be done to get there.

I look forward to the development of the next report and the continuing work of the DVDRT to change the story and reduce the likelihood of deaths occurring in a domestic violence context.

It is only by working together that we can keep our communities safe from domestic violence.

Sincerely,



Jodie Harrison MP

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