



The Hon. Sonya Kilkenny MP

Attorney-General

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Our ref: EBC 25025575
Your ref: COR 2020 000670

His Honour John Cain, State Coroner
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

By email to: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

WARNING: this letter contains references to an Aboriginal person who has passed away.

Dear Coroner Cain

I refer to your findings in the inquest into the passing of Noeline Dalzell whose passing was an immense tragedy. I extend my sincere condolences to her loved ones.

The Victorian Government is committed to ending family violence and supporting victim survivors. In May 2024, the Victorian Government announced it would deliver a package of reforms that will change laws, change culture, and deliver new support for victim survivors when they need it most. Law reforms seek to improve service of Family Violence Intervention Orders, establish a presumption of a minimum length of Family Violence Intervention Orders and make changes to the stalking offence as informed by the Victorian Law Reform Commission's Stalking Report for introduction into Parliament in 2025. Consultation is underway with stakeholders, including with the Victim Survivors' Advisory Council to ensure the voice of victim survivors is heard and incorporated in this important work.

The reform package also includes increased funding for legal assistance to support victim-survivors of family violence, and a landmark study to ensure Victoria's suite of perpetrator interventions are contemporary, effective and accessible. This work builds on Government's commitments to women's safety reforms already underway such as improvements for forensic medical services, law reforms including the affirmative consent model and an ongoing focus on information sharing.

Recommendation

Pursuant to section 72(2) of the *Coroners Act 2008 (Vic)*, you recommended:

That the Attorney General consider a reference to the Victorian Law Reform Council to consider legislative amendment in order to expand the Serious Offenders Act 2018 scheme to encompass serious repeat family violence offenders who pose an ongoing and high risk of violence to Affected Family Members.

Response to the recommendation

I have taken the recommendation under consideration.

The Victorian Government recognises the need for effective interventions and rehabilitation measures for high-risk repeat family violence offenders.

I note the *Serious Offenders Act 2018* already provides for ongoing supervision or detention of people who have committed the most serious offences, including those whose past offending and future risk of offending is family violence related.

The effective management of family violence perpetrators is a priority for the Government. Victoria's legislated Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework is the government's primary tool for identification, assessment and management of family violence risk. At the national level, the MARAM Framework is considered best practice and is being used by National Cabinet as an evidence base to support moving towards a nationally consistent framework. The MARAM Framework and associated information sharing reforms make a profound difference in the lives of children and adults at risk across the state, and have fundamentally improved the way we recognise and respond to family violence in Victoria.

The Government has announced it will deliver a landmark perpetrator study to explore the latest evidence on the behaviours and motivations of perpetrators, with a view to improving early intervention and perpetrator intervention programs.

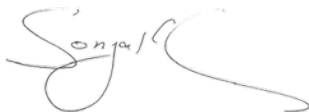
The Government is also focused on implementing the above-mentioned package of reforms to hold perpetrators to account and ensure we have a justice system that responds to the needs of victims and meets community expectations.

Should you require any further information, please contact Bill Kyriakopoulos, Deputy Secretary, Police, Racing, Victims and Coordination, DJCS at

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I thank the Court for its dedication to protecting the dignity of Victorians who die in reportable circumstances, and to reducing distress and trauma for friends and family engaging with the coronial system.

Yours sincerely



Sonya Kilkenny MP
Attorney-General

Date: 09/04/2025