



Secretary

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

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CSEC-260300238

Kate Sanderson
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria

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

Dear Ms. Sanderson

Investigation into the death of HDS – COR 2022 000793

I write in response to the findings made by State Coroner, Judge Sanger, on 20 March 2026 into the death of HDS and the recommendations made regarding the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (the department).

I would like to express my sadness and deepest condolences to HDS's family and loved ones for their loss.

I respond on behalf of the department to the following recommendations:

- i. That the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Quality and Safeguards Commission engage with the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to understand the requirements for prescribed bodies under MARAM and its applicability in the NDIS context. This engagement should be informed by this finding and Judge Cain's recent findings into the death of William Heddergott and PLM.
- ii. That the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission work with DFFH to expand the MARAM framework to include NDIS service providers in Victoria and make them MARAM-prescribed entities.
- iii. That the Victorian Government provide ongoing funding for the expansion of the Alexis Family Violence Response Model, across Victoria.

In response to:

Recommendation i and ii

The department met with representatives from the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (the Commission) in May 2026 and understands the Commission is currently considering its response to recommendations i and ii.

The department is currently partnering with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to strengthen the safety of adults and children with disability at risk of family and sexual violence and to improve perpetrator accountability. This program of work responds to concerns about the NDIA's response to NDIS participants experiencing family and sexual violence and to the misuse of NDIS systems by people using violence. The project includes the development of practice guidance and recommendations for policy change to enhance safety and support for NDIS participants at risk of violence. These system improvements will have applicability for NDIS workforces nationally.

National projects to support family and domestic violence risk assessment, risk management and information sharing

The Victorian Government is currently working with the Commonwealth Government to improve victim survivor safety and perpetrator accountability by introducing greater national consistency in how family violence risk is identified, assessed and managed across jurisdictions. These projects were a commitment of the National Cabinet meeting on gender-based violence in May 2024 and include:

- Best-practice family and domestic violence information sharing guidance – This project has seen the development of best practice guidance to support jurisdictions to improve their existing family and domestic violence information sharing practices.
- National family and domestic violence risk assessment principles – This project supports the development of national family and domestic violence risk assessment principles, risk factors and a model framework to support greater national consistency for family violence risk assessment and management.

Recommendation iii:

The Coroner's recommendation is supported in principle.

The department supports the recommendation to strengthen multi-agency responses between specialist family violence services and Victoria Police, to deliver programs such as co-response models. The department acknowledges that similar recommendations have been made in previous coronial findings.

The Alexis Family Violence Response Model (Alexis) embeds specialist family violence practitioners into Victoria Police Family Violence Investigation Units (FVIUs) to deliver an assertive approach to risk assessment and management, focusing on high-risk, repeat family violence contexts. As State Coroner Judge Sanger notes, Alexis currently operates across three program sites (encompassing four locations). The department is providing funding to continue these programs in 2026-27.

The department is also partnering with the Commonwealth government to fund two new Alexis program sites, to commence service delivery in 2026-27.

The department will continue to consider options for implementation of this recommendation across Victoria, noting that any further expansion of a co-response program is subject to future Victorian Government funding decisions.

If you require further information, please contact Melanie Heenan, Deputy Secretary, Family Safety Victoria at Melanie.Heenan@familysafety.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. McCammon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peta McCammon PSM
Secretary

18/06/2026