



Australian Women Against Violence Alliance

10 December 2019

The Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP

Minister for Indigenous Australians

PO Box 6100 Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Sent via email to: [Minister.Wyatt@ia.pm.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Wyatt@ia.pm.gov.au)

Dear Minister Wyatt,

We are writing to request that funding be reinstated to the National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Forum (National FVPLS Forum), and much-needed additional resources be allocated to the body. We were very concerned to learn that funding to National FVPLS Forum has been cut, particularly since this is the only peak body specifically tasked with representing services working to prevent and respond to domestic and family violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women nationally are 34 times more likely to be hospitalised for family violence and 10 times more likely to die from a violent assault than other women in this country. Efforts to reduce and ultimately end this violence must be informed by the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children, as well as the voices of those working directly with them. In this context, it is vital to protect and strengthen the existing infrastructure that is operating effectively to bring these voices into national conversations. National FVPLS Forum is a key part of this infrastructure.

We look forward to receiving your response at the earliest opportunity. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss these matters further.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Merrindahl Andrew, Program Manager

For and on behalf of: Australian Women Against Violence Alliance

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