



The Hon Pru Goward MP

Minister for Family and Community Services

Minister for Social Housing

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

EAP17/10380

Ms Anne Hywood
General Secretary
Anglican Church of Australia - General Synod
Suite 4, Level 5
189 Kent Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Hywood

Thank you for your correspondence of 21 September 2017 to the Premier regarding the resolution of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia on domestic violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This matter has been referred to me in my capacity as the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Thank you for bringing the General Synod's resolution to our attention, and for the important work undertaken by the Anglican Church to combat domestic and family violence, particularly in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The NSW Government shares the Anglican Church's concerns that rates of domestic and family violence are higher in certain communities, with women in these groups also experiencing greater challenges in accessing services. Aboriginal women in NSW are 4.1 times more likely than non-Aboriginal women to be victims of domestic assault.

The challenge for all of us is how we can work together and take collective action to end the scourge of domestic and family violence in our communities. The Domestic and Family Violence Interfaith Roundtable in July 2017 was an important further step in that collective action.

The NSW Government welcomes the agreement of roundtable attendees that there is a role for religious leaders in responding to domestic and family violence, as well as in communicating messages around respectful relationships.

The NSW Government continues to lead the nation with more than \$350 million allocated over four years to tackle domestic violence by supporting victims and holding perpetrators to account. This investment is in addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars the government spends each year to combat domestic violence through mainstream services.

Guided by the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016-2021, the NSW Government recognises specific strategies are required to engage

communities at higher risk of violence than the general population. The government has funded several projects to meet the specific needs of these at-risk groups including under the Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund.

The successful projects from the first round of the Innovation Fund include a project working in Aboriginal communities in Far West NSW – Maari Ma Health Corporation's Kalypi Mirika Paaka. This program employs cognitive behaviour therapy within an Aboriginal healing framework to address the underlying causes of violence in Aboriginal communities.

If you would like more information, please contact Ms Melinda Norton, Director Women NSW, on 9248 0800 or email melinda.norton@facs.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pru', written in a cursive style.

Pru Goward MP

23 NOV 2017