



**FIRST NATIONS
ADVOCATES AGAINST
FAMILY VIOLENCE**



**Community Legal Centres
Australia**



**National
Legal Aid**



NATSILS
National Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Legal Services
TRUE JUSTICE FOR OUR PEOPLE



**Women's
Legal Services
Australia**

27 March 2026

The Hon. Michelle Rowland MP
Attorney-General of Australia

Via email: Michelle.Rowland.MP@aph.gov.au

CC: The Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP
Treasurer of Australia

Via email: jim.chalmers.mp@aph.gov.au

CC: The Hon Senator Katy Gallagher
Minister for Finance; Minister for Women

Via email: senator.gallagher@aph.gov.au

Dear Attorney-General,

Joint legal services response opposing cuts to Family Relationships funding

We write to express our deep concern, and seek an urgent meeting, about reports yesterday that the government is considering cuts to legal and family relationship services that support people experiencing domestic and family violence.

We acknowledge the challenging economic environment that the Government is navigating. However, as you know, domestic and family violence already costs the Australian economy tens of billions each year. Investment in early intervention and legal support is one of the most effective ways to reduce long-term demand on health, justice, court and social systems and to support victim-survivors to rebuild and achieve economic security.

We urge you to rule out cuts that would impact on victim-survivors of family and domestic violence and undermine the Government's commitment to women's safety and equality.

Cuts to funding anywhere in the legal and support ecosystem have ripple effects and risk weakening the safety net at the very moment it is needed most, particularly for women, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children.

The proposed cuts would mean fewer people accessing early intervention supports, more people needing our already-stretched legal services, more people turning up to court unrepresented and ultimately more women and children remaining in unsafe situations.

These outcomes would be inconsistent with the objectives of the National Access to Justice Partnership.

We urge you to ensure that the upcoming Budget strengthens, not weakens, the systems that support women and children escaping abuse and control.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Kerry Staines

CEO – First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence

Nerita Waight

Chair – National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services

Adrienne Walters

Executive Director – Women's Legal Services Australia

Arlia Fleming

Chair – Community Legal Services Australia

Yvette D'Ath

Executive Director – National Legal Aid