



24 JUN 2022

PRIME MINISTER

Ms Kate Chaney MP
Member for Curtin
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Chaney *Kate,*

Congratulations on your election to the House of Representatives. I write to advise you of the following personal staffing allocation to take effect on 1 July 2022 for the duration of the 47th Parliament.

All senators and members are entitled to four electorate officers, with some members entitled to additional electorate officers if their electorate is larger than 25,000km². In addition to electorate staff, under sections 12 and 13 of the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (the MoPS Act), I may determine that a senator or member ought to be empowered to employ staff in accordance with arrangements approved by me.

In recognition of your role as an independent member (i.e. not a member of the Government, Opposition or the Australian Greens), I propose to allocate you one additional full-time staff member at the Adviser classification, in addition to your four electorate staff.

The Parliamentary Library can assist all members and senators with information and advice, including research and analysis of legislation. My Government intends to increase resourcing to the Parliamentary Library to reflect the support role that it provides to parliamentarians, particularly those on the crossbench.

The Clerk of the House and officers of the Department of the House of Representatives are also available to you for advice on parliamentary procedure and to provide assistance with drafting private members' bills.

The Department of Finance will provide the necessary administrative support for the employment of your personal staff member.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Special Minister of State, Senator the Hon Don Farrell, for information.

Yours sincerely

s 22

ANTHONY ALBANESE



28 June 2022

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister
House of Representatives
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister Albanese,

Personal Staffing Allocation

We write to request an urgent meeting with you to discuss your proposal dated June 24, 2022, regarding a determination under Clause 12 of the MOPS Act (Part III) for staff allocation to our offices.

We seek to discuss the substantial proposed reduction to staff allocation to independent and minor party Members and Senators from that which applied in the 46th Parliament.

We fear that if these proposed cuts are implemented, they will jeopardise the ability of the Parliament to operate effectively, and hence undermine your commitment to usher in a new era of Parliamentary co-operation and respect.

The news that the Parliamentary Library shall be better resourced is welcome, however the roles of parliamentary research staff are not designed to replace the unique work of advisor staff to independent or minor party Members and Senators. Similarly, the role of the clerk's office is very different to that of an advisor to an MP or Senator. As a parliamentarian of many years, you would know this distinction well.

As you also know, independent and minor party Members and Senators have very distinct responsibilities and workloads in Parliament which are different to backbenchers from the Opposition or the Government.

As Independents we each carry a strong message from our communities to do politics better, to work in good faith with government for strong public policy crafted in the public good. We want to work with you to apply the recommendations of the Jenkins Review to better the culture and practice of all who work in the Parliament of Australia.



We seek to resolve this issue sensibly and work towards a solution that honours our responsibilities as Members and Senators of the Australian Parliament. We look forward to meeting you to discuss these matters.

Yours Sincerely

s 22

HELEN HAINES MP.

For and on behalf of

Kate Chaney, Member for Curtin
Zoe Daniel, Member for Goldstein
Bob Katter, Member for Kennedy
Dr Helen Haines, Member for Indi
Dai Le, Member for Fowler
Dr Monique Ryan, Member for Kooyong
Dr Sophie Scamps, Member for Mackellar
Rebekha Sharkie, Member for Mayo
Allegra Spender, Member for Wentworth
Zali Steggall, Member for Warringah
Kylea Tink, Member for North Sydney



Zoe Daniel MP

Independent Federal Member for Goldstein

26 May 2023

**The Hon. Anthony Albanese, MP
Prime Minister of Australia
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600**

(Via: ^{s 22} [@pm.gov.au](mailto:zoe.daniel@pm.gov.au))

Dear Prime Minister,

The undersigned crossbenchers thank your government for the briefings provided by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Defence Industry Minister as well as senior Defence Department staff and Australian Defence Force personnel, on the Defence Strategic Review and AUKUS.

We appreciate your government's readiness to engage, and the insights received as a result.

We understand, as CDF told one of the briefings, that ADF is focussed on the increasing burden placed on military personnel to assist victims of the increasing number of climate related disasters and its distraction from their primary role – the defence and security of Australia.

However, we remain concerned that the geostrategic and national security consequences of climate change, particularly with our near neighbours in the Pacific and Asia in mind, is not one of the six DSR priorities.

We ask that you make public a declassified version of the Office of National Intelligence report on the external risks of climate change commissioned by and presented to the government last year.

We are taking our lead from no less an authority than former and widely respected CDF Chris Barrie and the Australian Security Leaders Climate Group.

He notes that it has been “the practice of Australia’s allies to release such assessments” and that “the Australian public deserve to know the full range of security threats our nation faces, particularly those posed by worsening climate change”.

We note that in December the Home Affairs Minister told the National Press Club that increasingly extreme weather was “creating massive movements of people that may become unmanageable” and spoke of the likelihood of food and energy shortages in the region.

Clearly, both factors lead to increased national security risk.

Australian Strategic Policy Institute has pointed to a now declassified Office of National Assessments report from 1981 which was remarkably prescient in its predictions then of what climate change would mean for Australia in the 21st century, accurately predicting what it would mean for our coal exports and on the other hand on the need to develop wind and solar energy production.

How much better prepared would we be today had that report been made public much earlier?

Our collective view is that releasing a declassified version of the above-mentioned ONI report would enable the public to have an informed view of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

We trust you will take our request in the way it is offered and give it due consideration.

Sincerely,

(signed)

Zoe Daniel MP
Kate Chaney MP
Helen Haines MP
Monique Ryan MP
Sophie Scamps MP
Allegra Spender MP
Zali Steggall MP
Kylea Tink MP
Andrew Wilkie MP
Senator David Pocock



PRIME MINISTER
The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

17 JUL 2023

Reference: MC23-046187

Ms Zoe Daniel MP and co-signatories
Member for Goldstein
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Daniel and co-signatories

Thank you for your letter dated 26 May 2023 regarding the Office of National Intelligence's Climate Security Risk Assessment (the Assessment).

The Government's decision to commission the Assessment underlines our deep concern about the risks climate change poses for our national security. The Assessment you refer to is contributing to Government analysis of the national security threats posed by climate change.

The Assessment contains classified material which the Government is considering at the present time. Along with the Government's Climate Statement, tabled with Parliament on 1 December 2022, there is already considerable material available in the public domain discussing national security threats from climate change.

The Government is taking action to transform Australia into a renewable energy superpower, making our economy more resilient while strengthening our efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change. This is why the Government acted quickly to enshrine our commitment to net zero emissions by 2050 in legislation, reform the Safeguard Mechanism and is investing over \$20 billion to reduce emissions and accelerate the uptake of renewable energy.

The Government is seizing the opportunities of the global net zero transformation, while increasing our resilience to the effects of climate change. There are various initiatives happening in parallel to the Assessment that reaffirm our commitment to action on this issue.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water published the Climate Projections Roadmap for Australia on 7 March 2023. A shared vision statement from the National Partnership for Climate Projections, it aims to develop a consistent approach to deliver comparable, robust, fit-for-purpose future climate information to assess climate risks and inform adaptation planning.

Additionally, the Department of Home Affairs is exploring how Australia can better deal with the cascading impacts of climate change and the associated domestic national security risks. Understanding these risks will enable the development of policies to address any critical national security vulnerabilities resulting from or exacerbated by climate change.

My Government released the Defence Strategic Review on 24 April 2023, recognising that climate change is a national security issue that will increase the challenges for Australia and Defence. In implementing the Review, the Commonwealth will strengthen its engagement with the states and territories to develop national resilience and response measures at the local level. In addition, Defence will accelerate its transition to clean energy, with a plan to be presented to the Government by 2025.

Finally, the Department of Treasury is modelling the impact of climate change on the Australian economy and national budget. This work will examine the cost to Australia from climate change as part of a broader effort to understand the risks facing businesses, households and key institutions.

I trust these examples demonstrate the importance that the Government is placing on this issue and reaffirms our commitment to implementing serious climate policy.

Yours sincerely

s.22

 ANTHONY ALBANESE



Zoe Daniel MP

Independent Federal Member for Goldstein

26 May 2023

**The Hon. Anthony Albanese, MP
Prime Minister of Australia
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600**

(Via: ^{s22} [@pm.gov.au](mailto:zoe.daniel@pm.gov.au))

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Sincerely,

(signed)

Zoe Daniel MP
Kate Chaney MP
Helen Haines MP
Monique Ryan MP
Sophie Scamps MP
Allegra Spender MP
Zali Steggall MP
Kylea Tink MP
Andrew Wilkie MP
Senator David Pocock



31 July 2023

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister of Australia

The Hon Chris Bowen MP
Minister for Climate Change and Energy

Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister and Minister Bowen

We, the undersigned, are writing in response to the increasingly dire news globally on climate change. On Friday morning, the Secretary General of the United Nations warned that we have progressed beyond global warming and are now in a period of global boiling. He warned of unbreathable air and unbearable temperatures to come.

We call on the government to:

1. Respond publicly to the global evidence of increasing warming;
2. Urgently update policy settings to reflect the reality that we must do everything possible to end Australia's contribution to global boiling;
3. Cease approving new fossil fuel projects; and
4. Develop a national adaptation plan to build resilience against the climate impacts already being felt and their increasing intensity and frequency.

July is tracking to be the hottest month ever recorded across the globe, the Northern Hemisphere is gripped by a heatwave of the atmosphere and of the oceans, fires are streaming through Greece, Canada and Portugal while Pakistan and Spain are flooding. Parts of Greece suffered power outages, due to underground electricity cables melting in the heat, leaving communities without water and exposing elderly residents to record heatwaves.

Food security is falling and there are also reports that cereal production in southern Europe is expected to fall by up to 60% this year due to the ongoing climate disasters.

Closer to home, the Antarctic ice sheet is melting when it ought to be growing and has been at record lows for months. If this trend continues it will further accelerate the warming of the planet and sea level rises. Scientists are warning the global sea surface temperature heat wave will be disastrous for the Great Barrier Reef spelling devastation for biodiversity and the Queensland economy.

Accelerated global warming will further increase the frequency and severity of bushfires, floods and droughts which dramatically increases threats to Australia's food security and critical infrastructure.

Despite the constant barrage of evidence that the world is warming at an unsustainable rate, your Government has to date failed to do enough to reduce emissions and address climate change.

Notwithstanding the dire scientific advice, your government is continuing to approve new fossil fuel projects. The Government's 43 percent emission reduction target by 2030 is not consistent with keeping warming below 2 degrees. Three new coal mines have been approved under your Government, multiple new gas fracking projects have been approved and you continue to open up new areas for fossil fuel exploration and seismic blasting of the oceans.

Our constituents are calling for greater action, more rapid, more ambitious policy that will truly drive us towards a zero emissions economy. Decarbonising every sector of the economy is essential and ending new fossil fuel developments must be a priority. According to the Climate Change Authority's Annual Statement 2022, only the energy sector was forecast to decrease emissions by 2030 under your policies. This is clearly unsatisfactory.

There is no time to wait. We call on the Government to act with greater ambition and accelerate emissions reduction to respond to this growing crisis.

Yours sincerely

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Zali Steggall MP

Zoe Daniel MP

Allegra Spender MP

Kylea Tink MP

Dr Helen Haines MP

Kate Chaney MP

Senator David Pocock

Sophie Scamps MP

Dr Monique Ryan

Andrew Wilkie MP



The Honourable Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister

The Honourable Richard Marles MP
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence

The Honourable Mark Dreyfus KC MP
Attorney-General

Senator the Honourable Katy Gallagher
Minister for the Public Service

Whistleblower Protections and Whistleblower Prosecutions

Dear Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Attorney-General, Minister for the Public Service,

We welcome this Government's commitment to stronger whistleblower protections, as part of its wider integrity and transparency agenda. Nevertheless, we write to express our concern at the ongoing prosecution of Australian whistleblowers and call for stronger commitments to protecting and empowering our whistleblowers.

We all firmly believe that whistleblowers make Australia a better place. Each of us has put integrity at the heart of our agenda – we all appreciate the central role that truth-tellers play in ensuring democratic accountability and corporate good governance.

This letter follows the open letter signed by more than 70 prominent signatories, published yesterday in several Australian newspapers (**enclosed**). The letter underscores the growing alarm within civil society, the media and the legal profession about the mistreatment of whistleblowers in our country.

Richard Boyle exposed unethical debt recovery practices at the Australian Taxation Office. David McBride helped reveal allegations of war crimes committed by Australian forces in Afghanistan. In courageously speaking up, Mr Boyle and Mr McBride have each made Australia a better place in different ways. It is a travesty that they both face trial, for telling the truth about government wrongdoing. When Mr McBride faces a jury on 13 November of this year, he will be the first Australian on trial in relation to war crimes in Afghanistan: a whistleblower, not an alleged war criminal. They deserve better; Australians deserve better.

These prosecutions are deeply contrary to the public interest. They have a chilling effect on Australia's prospective whistleblowers and undermine the good work that your Government is doing to promote integrity and transparency. These cases are exceptional. Whilst it is not entirely clear whether "very unusual or exceptional circumstances" are legally required for the exercise of the Attorney-General's power (conferred by section 71 of the *Judiciary Act* 1903 (Cth)) to intervene in these cases, we consider that they

nevertheless meet any such threshold that warrants the Attorney-General's intervention, under the *Judiciary Act 1903*. We urge you to exercise this executive power, granted to the Attorney-General as the backstop of accountability for the prosecutorial process, to end these cases that are evidently not in the public interest.

We urge you to act before it is too late and the unthinkable happens. It would be tragic if Mr McBride and Mr Boyle are convicted and imprisoned – locked up for doing the right thing by blowing the whistle and speaking up about wrongdoing in government. That would be a stain on Australia's international reputation and would undermine our ability to call out the prosecution of dissidents and truth-tellers in other countries.

The ongoing prosecutions are set against the backdrop of failing whistleblower protection laws. While we welcomed the first phase of reform to the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013* in June of this year, we would encourage the Government to outline its timeframe and process for a robust, comprehensive overhaul of the law. Australia desperately needs consistency and uniformity in its whistleblowing regimes, not a continuation of the piecemeal development that has characterised these frameworks to date. We urge you to be bold in pursuing ambitious reform, first for public sector whistleblowers, followed by private sector whistleblowers in 2024 (with the statutory review of the *Corporations Act 2001* protections due).

Last, the Attorney-General has committed to releasing a discussion paper on the need for a whistleblower protection commission for the public sector. This is a welcome step, but it does not go far enough. A whistleblower protection commission with comprehensive jurisdiction over public and private sector whistleblowing would ensure that these laws have practical effect. The Australian Labor Party committed to a whistleblower protection commission at the 2019 election, following a bipartisan recommendation of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services in 2017. A whistleblowing body is the missing piece of the National Anti-Corruption Commission, present in the crossbench bill but absent from the bill that became law. Rather than a discussion paper, we urge you to commit to establishing a whistleblower protection commission by the end of this term.

By dropping the prosecutions against Mr Boyle and Mr McBride, pursuing ambitious, comprehensive law reform, and establishing a whistleblower protection commission, this Government can leave a remarkable legacy in protecting Australians who speak up about wrongdoing.

Kind regards

Senator Penny Allman-Payne
Senator for Queensland

Stephen Bates MP
Member for Brisbane

Bridget Archer MP
Member for Bass

Max Chandler-Mather MP
Member for Griffith

Adam Bandt MP
Leader of the Australian Greens
Member for Melbourne

Kate Chaney MP
Member for Curtin

Senator Dorinda Cox
Senator for Western Australia

Zoe Daniel MP
Member for Goldstein

Senator Mehreen Faruqi
Senator for New South Wales

Dr Helen Haines MP
Member for Indi

Senator Sarah Hanson-Young
Senator for South Australia

Dai Le MP
Member for Fowler

Senator Nick McKim
Senator for Tasmania

Senator Barbara Pocock
Senator for South Australia

Senator David Pocock
Senator for Australian Capital Territory

Senator Janet Rice
Senator for Victoria

Dr Monique Ryan MP
Member for Kooyong

Dr Sophie Scamps
Member for Mackellar

Rebekha Sharkie MP
Member for Mayo

Senator David Shoebridge
Senator for New South Wales

Allegra Spender MP
Member for Wentworth

Senator Jordon Steele-John
Senator for Western Australia

Zali Steggall OAM MP
Member for Warringah

Senator Lidia Thorpe
Senator for Victoria

Kylea Tink MP
Member for North Sydney

Senator Tammy Tyrell
Senator for Tasmania

Senator Larissa Waters
Senator for Queensland

Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP
Member for Ryan

Senator Peter Whish-Wilson
Senator for Tasmania

Andrew Wilkie MP
Member for Clark

Enclosed: Open letter published by whistleblower coalition

20 March 2024

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister
By email: Anthony.Albanese.MP@aph.gov.au

The Hon Linda Burney MP
Minister for Indigenous Australians
By email: MinisterBurney@ia.pm.gov.au

The Hon Mark Dreyfus KC, MP
Attorney-General, Cabinet Secretary
By email: attorney@ag.gov.au

Dear Prime Minister, Minister Burney and Attorney-General Dreyfus,

Re: Bringing Them Home report and Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody

We write to you to find a way forward on implementing the recommendations from the Bringing Them Home report on removal of First Nations children and the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

Successive governments have failed to implement the majority of recommendations from these reports, several decades after they have been handed down. The lack of a coordinated approach and urgent implementation of these recommendations has led to the continuing worsening of conditions for First Peoples, and many lives lost. This goes against our international human rights obligations, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as basic ethical and moral standards as a nation.

Your government needs to act immediately to ensure full implementation of the recommendations from the Bringing them Home report and the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

Given the lack of monitoring of the extent to which recommendations have been implemented so far, the first step towards this and one which falls under clear federal jurisdiction, is the establishment of a clear entity to monitor the implementation of the Inquiry's recommendations and report annually to all governments on the progress of implementation. Following the reports' findings, the Australian Human Rights Commission is well placed to take on this role. Specifically, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commissioner, if properly resourced to do so, would be in a good position to monitor and oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, and the new National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner the implementation of the Bringing them Home report's recommendations.

This is a tangible and achievable action for your government to take in this term, and one that can lead to change on a larger scale. We therefore kindly request you to seriously consider these requests and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Senator Lidia Thorpe

Senator for Victoria

Senator David Pocock

Senator for the ACT

Senator Jacqui Lambie

Senator for Tasmania

Senator Tammy Tyrell

Senator for Tasmania

Kylea Tink MP

Member for North Sydney

Zali Steggall MP

Member for Warringah

Monique Ryan MP

Member for Kooyong

Kate Chaney MP

Member for Curtin

Zoe Daniel MP

Member for Goldstein

Helen Haines MP

Member for Indi

Sophie Scamps MP

Member for Mackellar

Allegra Spender

Member for Wentworth

Andrew Wilkie

Member for Clark



Hon. Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

29 April 2024

Dear Prime Minister,

Thirty-two women have been killed by men's violence this year alone.

Violence against women is preventable, but we need to better identify risks and opportunities for intervention.

In NSW, Molly Ticehurst's alleged killer, her former partner, was on bail for rape and stalking charges against her at the time she was killed. He was accused of three counts of rape, four counts of stalking and intimidation, two counts of destroying property, and one count of animal cruelty. These are well established risk factors for escalation of harm, and yet he was released on bail.

In Victoria, Hannah McGuire was killed, allegedly by her former boyfriend. She had sought help from police in the two weeks leading up to her death and she had an intervention order in place at the time she was killed. The alleged killer was on bail for unrelated serious offences at the time of the killing.

In Queensland, Hannah Clarke and her three children had sought help from the police and domestic violence services prior to her death. The Coronial Inquest concluded that 'there was a failure by all agencies to recognise her extreme risk of lethality'. There was a domestic violence protection order (DVO) in place at the time of the killings.

All too often when inquiries are conducted following these killings, we learn that there were numerous opportunities to intervene and prevent these deaths. It is too late at that point - we need to create a robust national effort to improve risk identification and justice system intervention in cases of male violence against women.

We need to treat gender-based violence with the same level of urgency we show acts of terrorism, and at a rate of a woman every four days, it is killing more Australians.

The fact is that women, and children, are being terrorised across our nation.

We cannot let this be yet another moment of marching in the streets that does not deliver change.

We know that you know that.

Our view is that the call for a national Royal Commission is well intentioned, but the question is, what would it uncover that we don't already know?

In the past three years, we've had a House of Representatives inquiry into Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence and a National Women's Safety Summit. And the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence in 2015 made 227 recommendations.

Experts in the sector already know where resources are urgently needed.

Rather than spend a year and several hundred million dollars on a Royal Commission, while women are killed every week, we need to spend that money on accelerated action.

We need coordinated action across the spectrum - prevention, early intervention, and response.

Our view is that it needs to be broken down into three areas: immediate actions, next steps, and long-term cultural change.

Immediate action includes a sentencing review to create more accountability and consequences for perpetrators, not only within the justice system where bail laws and intervention orders are failing women, but other systems that are weaponised by perpetrators, including child support and the family courts.

These potential actions include mandatory sentencing, consequences for breaching AVOs, electronic monitoring, abolishing the admission of 'good character' references and a National Domestic Violence Register.

Experts also support minimum police investigation standards and government funded independent legal representation.

Right now, there is no nationally co-ordinated mechanism to count and analyse the deaths of these women.

To better identify risk, we need consolidated data to identify red flags that are being missed in the system. Professor Kate Fitz-Gibbon's Family Violence Homicide Prevention Initiative would build the evidence base, including knowledge of risk factors and intervention points, needed to interrupt trajectories of harm and violence escalation.

Next steps would target exacerbating factors like violent online porn, misogynistic social media influencers and problem gambling. These harmful, unregulated industries are contributing to violence against women, and they must be held accountable.

The current impact of financial pressure on families must also be assessed.

We also need sustainable, consistent, and certain investment in frontline services, including affordable housing for women escaping violent relationships.



The National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children and The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan are a good set of aims but they are underfunded. Frontline services live hand to mouth, constantly worrying about whether their funding will be renewed.

The Escaping Violence Program must be fully funded along with programs to enable women to stay in the family home, and the federal government must force the states to break the logjam on the recruitment of 500 frontline workers funded in last year's Budget.

Journalist and educator on coercive control Jess Hill is right when she says we won't stop violence against women with conversations about respect.

However, long-term cultural change must be our goal. To create a safe, fair, and equal society we need to properly fund consent and respectful relationships education and provoke men and boys to be more than bystanders.

Boys must be taught the difference between healthy masculinity and toxic masculinity.

Women cannot protect themselves from murder by men. Only men can stop this.

Not all men disrespect women and not all disrespect towards women results in violence. But all violence against women starts with disrespect.

We look forward to meeting with you after your urgent national cabinet meeting this week to discuss how we can work together to address this national emergency.

Sincerely,

Zoe Daniel MP
Member for Goldstein

Kylea Tink MP
Member for North Sydney

Zali Steggall OAM MP
Member for Warringah

Allegra Spender MP
Member for Wentworth

Kate Chaney MP
Member for Curtin

Dr. Monique Ryan MP
Member for Kooyong

Dr. Sophie Scamps MP
Member for Mackellar

Dr. Helen Haines MP
Member for Indi

Andrew Wilkie MP
Member for Clark

Andrew Gee MP
Member for Calare

Rebekha Sharkie MP
Member for Mayo



PRIME MINISTER
The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

Ms Kate Chaney MP
Member for Curtin
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Chaney,

Thank you for your letter and your shared commitment to working together to end the national crisis of violence against women and children. I share your anger and frustration that despite our best efforts as a nation, we continue to see too many women in Australia living in fear and too many dying from violence. I am determined to find solutions to prevent violence against women, and I know this determination is shared across our nation.

That is why this week I convened an urgent National Cabinet to bring together all Australian Governments to focus on what more we need to do to stop the crisis and continue the critical work of prevention and cultural change.

The National Cabinet meeting reached important outcomes that build on the work my Government has done to date. An important outcome of the National Cabinet meeting was the Government's commitment to invest \$925.2 million in a permanent new Leaving Violence Payment so those escaping violence can receive financial support, safety assessments and referrals to support pathways. Too often people ask why women don't leave violent relationships, when the reality is that financial barriers mean they have nowhere to go. The new Leaving Violence Payment will provide those eligible with up to \$5,000 in financial support but it also adds in important risk assessments, referrals to services and safety planning.

The permanent program builds on significant investments the Government has already made to address the link between financial insecurity and violence including: expanding eligibility for the single Parenting Payment – helping 82,000 more single parents remain on higher payment rates until their youngest child turns 14; legislating ten days paid family and domestic violence leave; increasing rent assistance with the largest increase in 30 years; and investing in crisis accommodation and affordable housing for women and children escaping violence.

We are clear on saying that supporting survivors and mourning victims is not enough. We need to focus on perpetrators and we need to focus on prevention. This is why National Cabinet agreed that the Commonwealth will commission a rapid expert review of prevention approaches that will be led by the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner, with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

We need to focus on prevention and we need to do that in new ways. Concentrating our efforts on perpetrators; intervening early where there is higher risk – whether it's because people are facing financial or health stress, or alcohol and drug issues. That's why the expert review will focus on targeted, evidence-based approaches to preventing violence, new approaches and whole of system opportunities. This is an important opportunity to identify gaps and build on our current approach to prevention. The rapid review will report back to National Cabinet next quarter.

In an initial step to build on our existing prevention efforts, I announced this week that the Government will take action to address easy access to pornography for children and young people, and extreme online misogyny, which is fuelling harmful attitudes that contribute to violence.

The Government will deliver a suite of measures including resourcing a pilot of age assurance technology to protect children from age inappropriate material such as pornography and other age-restricted online services. We will also legislate a ban on the creation and non-consensual distribution of deep-fake pornography.

In addition, a new phase of the successful Stop it at the Start campaign will launch in mid-June and run until May next year. This new phase will specifically include a counter-influencing campaign in online spaces where violent and misogynistic content thrives, to directly challenge the material in the spaces it's being viewed. The campaign is intended to counter the corrosive influence of online content targeted at young adults that condones violence against women. It will raise awareness about a proliferation of misogynistic influencers and content, and encourage conversations within families about the damaging impact of the material.

National Cabinet also focused on early intervention, strengthening accountability and consequences for perpetrators, and best practice justice responses that support people who have experienced violence. National Cabinet also agreed the critical importance of addressing missing and murdered First Nations women and children, and the impact of domestic and family violence in First Nations communities.

First Ministers agreed that system responses need to be strengthened, with a focus on high risk perpetrators and serial offenders to prevent homicides. This will involve work across governments and jurisdictions.

First Ministers have agreed to undertake a range of work that will report back to National Cabinet as a priority, including tasking the Police Ministers Council and the Standing Council of Attorneys-General to develop options for improving police responses to high risk and serial perpetrators, including considering use of focussed deterrence and fixated threat strategies.

National Cabinet also agreed to improve information sharing about perpetrators across systems and jurisdictions and to identify opportunities to make our national response more consistent. This work on strengthening national consistency and driving best practice approaches across jurisdictions is an important opportunity to progress priorities identified by the sector and those with lived experience of violence. The Commonwealth Government will continue to work with states and territories, who run our policing and criminal justice systems, to drive this work.

Preventing violence against women has been a priority of the Government since we took office, and we know there is much more to do. This important work will take time, determination and a relentless focus on helping survivors. These new commitments delivered through National Cabinet are another important step forward in this journey.

This week's actions build on our considerable work already underway. All Australian Governments are working to deliver on the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children, which sets the important goal to end gendered violence in a generation. My Government has delivered a record \$2.3 billion to support the National Plan over our first two Budgets.

But as the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner said following National Cabinet, we need to be constantly looking at what is emerging and changing and what we need to prioritise to prevent these homicides. I am committed to continuing to work to find and fill the gaps in our approach and to listening to people with lived experience of violence to help us do that.

We cannot be satisfied until the violence stops.

I appreciate your constructive advocacy with me and with Ministers in my Government on the safety of women and children and we look forward to continuing this engagement in the coming months.

I have asked the Hon Amanda Rishworth MP, Minister for Social Services, and the Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Minister for Communications, to brief you on the outcomes of the National Cabinet meeting and answer your questions. I understand that this has already been scheduled for Monday May 6.

I have copied this letter to Minister Rishworth and Minister Rowland.

Thank you again for your advocacy.

Yours sincerely

ANTHONY ALBANESE

The Honourable Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister

The Honourable Mark Dreyfus KC MP
Attorney-General

16 May 2024

Whistleblower Protections and Whistleblower Prosecutions

Dear Prime Minister, Attorney-General,

On Tuesday, a whistleblower was sentenced to over 5 and a half years imprisonment, marking a dark day in Australian history. David McBride was imprisoned for providing documents to our public broadcaster, the ABC, which led to the Afghan Files, a piece of landmark public interest journalism. The case against McBride, together with other whistleblower prosecutions and the 2019 raids by Australian Federal Police on the ABC and journalist Annika Smethurst, has had a deep chilling effect on whistleblowing and public interest journalism in Australia. These cases have undermined our democracy.

Whistleblowers make Australia a better place. We welcome your Government's commitment to stronger whistleblower protections, and your swift action to end the prosecution of Bernard Collaery in 2022. We also acknowledge the first phase of reform to the *Public Interest Disclosure Act* enacted last June, the improved protections for tax sector whistleblowers contained in the Treasury Laws Amendment (Tax Accountability and Fairness) Bill 2023, and proposed improvements for whistleblowers in the New Aged Care Act.

But the imprisonment of McBride for his role in exposing war crimes committed by Australian forces in Afghanistan confirms what this government has already acknowledged: that the laws are broken and need urgent reform. We note the condemnation of this outcome by unions, press freedom advocates, and human rights and transparency organisations in Australia and internationally. We also note Australia's recent decline to 39th on the World Press Freedom Index.

We remain deeply concerned about the ongoing prosecution of whistleblower Richard Boyle, who exposed wrongdoing at the Australian Taxation Office, and is being prosecuted for preparatory steps in blowing the whistle internally. We are also concerned about the slow pace of reform and the lack of commitment to establishing a whistleblower protection commission, contrary to your comments ahead of the 2019 federal election.

Without swift action, Mr McBride will languish in jail for at least the next two years and three months (until the end of his non-parole period), and future whistleblowers will continue to suffer in the absence of robust, comprehensive reform. However, you have the power through the Royal Prerogative of Mercy to end this injustice, and push on with reform.

Accordingly, we write to call on you to:

1. Advise the Governor-General to use the Royal Prerogative of Mercy to grant a full pardon to McBride.
2. Discontinue the prosecution of tax office whistleblower Richard Boyle.
3. Commit to urgently overhauling whistleblowing and secrecy laws, at the latest before the end of this parliamentary term.
4. Commit to establishing a whistleblower protection commission, with preparatory work beginning immediately to ensure the body commences during 2025.

In 2020, Prime Minister, you told media outlet *Crikey*, in relation to the Collaery prosecution, “the idea that there should be a prosecution of a whistle-blower, for what’s a shameful part of Australia’s history, is simply wrong”.

We could not agree more. It is equally shameful that the first person imprisoned in relation to Australia’s war crimes in Afghanistan is not a war criminal but the source of the Afghan Files reporting, journalism that was undeniably in the public interest.

By ending the war against whistleblowers, establishing a whistleblower protection commission, and pursuing ambitious, comprehensive law reform, this Government can ensure whistleblowers in Australia are protected – not punished, prosecuted or imprisoned.

We urge you to take the four critical steps outlined above to make Australia fairer and more transparent and to send a clear message to genuine whistleblowers that they are both respected and protected.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Wilkie MP
Member for Clark

Allegra Spender MP
Member for Wentworth

Bridget Archer MP
Member for Bass

Senator Lidia Thorpe
Senator for Victoria

Adam Bandt MP
Member for Melbourne

Senator David Shoebridge
Senator for New South Wales

Senator Mehreen Faruqi
Senator for New South Wales

Senator Larissa Waters
Senator for Queensland

Senator Sarah Hanson-Young
Senator for South Australia

Senator Nick McKim
Senator for Tasmania

Senator Penny Allman-Payne
Senator for Queensland

Senator Dorinda Cox
Senator for Western Australia

Senator Steph Hodgins-May
Senator for Victoria

Senator Barbara Pocock
Senator for South Australia

Senator Jordon Steele-John
Senator for Western Australia

Senator Peter Whish-Wilson
Senator for Tasmania

Stephen Bates MP
Member for Brisbane

Max Chandler-Mather MP
Member for Griffith

Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP
Member for Ryan

Dr Sophie Scamps MP
Member for Mackellar

Kylea Tink MP
Member for North Sydney

Dai Le MP
Member for Fowler

Rebekha Sharkie MP
Member for Mayo

Zali Steggall OAM MP
Member for Warringah

Dr Helen Haines MP
Member for Indi

Senator David Pocock
Senator for Australian Capital Territory

Zoe Daniel MP
Member for Goldstein

Senator Tammy Tyrrell
Senator for Tasmania

Kate Chaney MP
Member for Curtin

Dr Monique Ryan MP
Member for Kooyong



June 14, 2024

The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

(Via: ^{s22} [@pm.gov.au](mailto:pm.gov.au))

CC. Hon. Mark Dreyfus MP

Dear Prime Minister,

Women across Australia are not getting the legal assistance and support they need to escape or recover from family, domestic or sexual violence.

Despite the critical role Women's Legal Services play in enabling women and children to escape violent men and rebuild their lives, there was no additional funding in the Budget to increase frontline legal service delivery.

In their pre-Budget submission, national peak body Women's Legal Services Australia (WLSA) asked for \$25 million annually to ensure financially disadvantaged and marginalised women at risk of violence could access specialised legal assistance. What they got with their share of the additional funding of \$44.1 million through the National Legal Assistance Partnership (NLAP) was a small increase to meet the cost of CPI and some funding to reduce community legal sector pay disparity.

None of the new money in the Budget went towards services.

Women's Legal Services are an important and distinct part of the legal and social services system in Australia.

They have specialist expertise in assisting victim-survivors of gender-based violence and abuse and provide a wraparound model of service delivery where women are also supported by social workers, financial counsellors, and trauma counsellors to enhance their safety.

These services give women what they need to make decisions for themselves and their family, gain independence, financial stability and security.

In 2023, WLSA collected national turn away data over a 5-day period across all 13 Women's Legal Services. It found that 1,018 women who attempted to seek help missed out on getting assistance due to a lack of capacity. From this we can estimate that more than 1,000 women per week, and more than 52,000 women per year, will have to be turned away from these services across Australia.

This is representative only of the women who seek assistance – the true extent of unmet legal need related to gender-based violence has yet to be measured.

Without additional funding, Women’s Legal Services will continue to turn away tens of thousands of women and children at risk of violence each year.

In its submission to the Independent Review of the National Legal Assistance Partnership 2020-2025 (NLAP), WLSA recommended a dedicated funding stream for Women’s Legal Services. This would ensure funding for women reaches its intended recipients, and victim-survivors of gendered violence have access to specialist, integrated and trauma-informed services.

Among its 39 recommendations, the NLAP reviewer also recommended that funding for Women’s Legal Services be separated from the general CLC stream and quarantined under the A2JP.

Additionally, it recommended funding of \$250,000, commencing from 2024-25 for WLSA so it can function as the national women’s legal assistance peak.

Prime Minister, a strong and sustainable Women’s Legal sector is vital if we’re to end violence against women and children in a generation as the National Plan sets out to do.

We urge you to prioritise investment in Women’s Legal Services and adopt this recommendation.

But Women’s Legal Services are just one piece of the picture. Legal Aid Commissions (LACs), Community Legal Centres (CLCs), Family Violence Prevention Legal Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services provide legal assistance with family violence intervention orders, family law, child protection, and victims of crime compensation.

In its submission to the Independent Review of the NLAP, CLC Australia said on average, centres that felt able to estimate turn-aways had 23.8 turn-aways per week, or 1237 turn-aways per year per centre. Across all services in their membership network this translates to 200,000 per year.

Urgent investment across the legal assistance sector is needed to ensure all segments can meet the unmet needs of women in crisis who are at risk of, or experiencing, family, domestic and sexual violence.

Yours sincerely,

s 22

Zoe Daniel
Independent Member for Goldstein

Monique Ryan
Independent Member for Kooyong



Sophie Scamps
Independent Member for Mackellar

Kylea Tink
Independent Member for North Sydney

Zali Steggall
Independent Member for Warringah

Kate Chaney
Independent Member for Curtin

Allegra Spender
Independent Member for Wentworth

David Pocock
Independent Senator for the ACT

Helen Haines
Independent Member for Indi



PRIME MINISTER
The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

Reference: MC24-090855

6 AUG 2024

Ms Zoe Daniel MP and co-signatories
Member for Goldstein
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Via ^{s.22} [@pm.gov.au](mailto:zoe.daniel@pm.gov.au)

Dear Ms Daniel and co-signatories

Thank you for your letter dated 14 June 2024 regarding funding for the Women's Legal Services to increase frontline legal service delivery.

The Australian Government acknowledges the invaluable work of legal service providers, including women's legal services, in delivering critical support to at-risk and disadvantaged Australians, particularly women and children experiencing domestic and family violence.

In your letter, you referred to the funding under the National Legal Assistance Partnership (NLAP, 2020–2025). The Commonwealth Government works with states and territories to implement this agreement, which provides more than \$2.4 billion over five years for legal assistance services across Australia. This includes funding to Women's Legal Services, including for women experiencing, or at risk of, family violence. The Government also provides support for Domestic Violence Units and Health Justice Partnerships, which deliver wrap-around services to women who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, family violence.

The Government is currently working through negotiations with states and territories to agree on the future funding arrangements for the legal assistance sector, including Women's Legal Services. As we do this, I can assure you that the importance of legal assistance for families impacted by family and domestic violence is front of mind. This is particularly the case as all Australian governments are working together, following the National Cabinet meeting of 1 May 2024, to respond to the national crisis of domestic violence.

The Government delivered an important funding boost of an additional \$44.1 million for legal assistance services in the 2024–25 Budget, as an interim measure while a successor to the NLAP is negotiated. As you note, this included an indexation boost to service providers, but it also assisted in stabilising the community legal sector workforce in order to help the sector retain staff and maintain service delivery.

I have copied the Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP, Attorney-General, into this correspondence.

I have also copied the other signatories to your letter: Dr Monique Ryan MP, Independent Member for Kooyong; Dr Sophie Scamps MP, Independent Member for Mackellar; Ms Kylea Tink MP, Independent Member for North Sydney; Ms Zali Steggall OAM MP, Independent Member for Warringah; Ms Kate Chaney MP, Independent Member for Curtin; Ms Allegra Spender MP, Independent Member for Wentworth; Senator David Pocock, Independent Senator for the Australian Capital Territory; and Dr Helen Haines MP, Independent Member for Indi.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention and for your commitment to ending violence against women and children. I trust this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely

s.22



ANTHONY ALBANESE

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP,

Prime Minister
House of Representatives
Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

26th July 2024

RE: Allegations of grievous and prolonged misconduct and corruption within the CFMEU

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to ask for urgent and comprehensive action in response to the revelations regarding the CFMEU that have been exposed in recent weeks.

We are concerned that the CFMEU's actions compromise the integrity of government spending, cause individual and societal harm through alleged criminal activity, exacerbate building costs that drag on housing affordability, business costs and inflation, and create hurdles and waste that erodes economic productivity. This sort of corruption also has a corrosive effect throughout the community. The lack of accountability, the opportunity for organised crime finding its way to capture public money, creates significant risk of contagion into other sectors of the economy.

We are concerned that elements of this behaviour had been brought to the attention of government and institutions, and were widely known, but not dealt with. We have had three Royal Commissions documenting deep-seated problems but still they persist. Arguably, legitimate businesses in our country are too intimidated by the actions of the CFMEU and potential commercial and personal retribution to seek redress or to speak publicly about the issues in the sector. That should be of huge concern to all of us.

We believe that we need change so that Australia has a construction industry where:

1. Criminal behaviour, intimidation and toxic behaviour are not tolerated, and are properly policed, with individuals facing the full force of the law
2. Public investment in infrastructure is made in a way that maximises value for money, economic productivity, as well as appropriate safeguards for workers
3. The public has confidence that their interests are prioritised over political relationships with unions.

Repeated failure to provide the above has resulted in long-standing recognition this industry requires special measures. We are deeply concerned that while the Albanese Government abolished the failed ABCC and the ROC it then failed to establish an appropriate replacement body to exercise oversight of this problematic industry. It is clear however, that no actions to date have been enough to address the issues.

Australians are tired of these problems being a political football, which creates a blame game, but no real systemic change. We are calling on the Government to agree to both a short- and long-term strategy to finally and comprehensively address these issues with Australia's construction industry once and for all.

The commitments the government have made to date are not forceful enough or far-reaching enough to deal with this issue.

As a short-term strategy, we are seeking:

1. Resourcing to support police at different levels of government conduct thorough investigations involving the misuse of public money, abuse of powers of the union, and fraud by actors in the sector
2. A robust and transparent administration process of the CMFEU that truly addresses the corruption and misconduct allegations
3. A commitment by the Federal government to withhold infrastructure funding from projects until States can show evidence of their policing of criminal activity within the sector
4. The Labor party to suspend all donations from the CFMEU indefinitely.

These actions however are just another short-term fix. To truly address the issues, we are seeking the establishment of a new oversight body and legislative framework to provide the transparency, accountability and cultural change needed to address the issues within the sector. This has to be designed with good-faith actors across the industry. The establishment of this body should be developed with engagement across the parliament so that we can develop a framework that can last and be built on, rather than be torn down with each change of government.

We request an urgent meeting with you regarding this.

Yours sincerely,

Allegra Spender MP
Member for Wentworth

Kate Chaney MP
Member for Curtin

Kylea Tink MP
Member for North Sydney

Dr. Monique Ryan
Member for Kooyong

Zali Steggall OAM MP
Member for Warringah

Zoe Daniel MP
Member for Goldstein



PRIME MINISTER
The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

Reference: MC24-106983

15 AUG 2024

Ms Allegra Spender MP and co-signatories
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Spender and co-signatories

Thank you for your letter dated 26 July 2024 regarding the allegations of misconduct and corruption within the Construction and General Division of the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU).

On 12 August 2024 the Government introduced the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment (Administration) Bill 2024* into the Senate. The effect of this bill would be to place the Construction and General Division of the CFMEU under the control of an administrator, if the Minister considers it in the public interest to do so.

The placing of the Construction and General Division into administration is the strongest and most effective means available to Government to address the issues raised in your correspondence. The Government seeks the support of all members and senators for the passage of this legislation as soon as practical.

In light of this significant development, I encourage you to continue to engage with Minister for Workplace Relations and Employment, Senator the Hon Murray Watt over the matters raised in your correspondence.

I have copied this letter to Senator the Hon Murray Watt, the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Ms Kate Chaney MP, Senator Jacqui Lambie, Ms Kylea Tink MP, Dr Monique Ryan MP, Ms Zali Steggall OAM MP and Ms Zoe Daniel MP.

Yours sincerely

s 22

 ANTHONY ALBANESE

20/08/2024 05:39:00 PM

Ms Kate Chaney

s 22

kate.chaney@aph.gov.au

PM Correspondence - ATT:109739 Crossbench letter to PM

As discussed, please find attached a letter to the Prime Minister from the Crossbench requesting the Government legislate a blanket ban on advertisements for online gambling.

We are planning to share with media tomorrow.



20 August 2024

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House, Canberra, 2600

Dear Prime Minister

Ads for Online Gambling

We are writing to ask the Government to legislate a blanket ban on advertisements for online gambling.

While we are aware that no final decisions have been made, the reform package currently being discussed with stakeholders seems designed to prioritise broadcast media sustainability over public health concerns.

The evidence presented during the Standing Committee on Social and Policy Affairs' inquiry shows that partial bans don't work. We are not aware of any contrary evidence that has emerged in the past 14 months while the government has been considering its response to the committee's report.

Australia has a proud history of prioritising public health in advertising regulation, with the banning of tobacco advertising serving as a useful precedent.

We recognise that broadcast media face financial challenges and we would welcome a broader discussion about how to ensure ongoing media diversity in Australia. But falling short of a blanket ban on online gambling ads because of the potential impact on broadcast media sustainability commits us to a trade-off that Australians are unlikely to support.

We ask that you proceed with the recommended blanket ban on ads for online gambling and deal with the important question of broadcast media separately and transparently.

Yours sincerely

Kate Chaney MP
Dai Le MP
Rebekha Sharkie MP
Kylea Tink MP
Stephen Bates MP
Bridget Archer MP
Senator David Pocock

Zoe Daniel MP
Monique Ryan MP
Allegra Spender MP
Andrew Wilkie MP
Max Chandler-Mather MP
Senator Jacqui Lambie
Senator Lidia Thorpe

Helen Haines MP
Sophie Scamps MP
Zali Steggall MP
Adam Bandt MP
Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP
Senator Fatima Payman
Senator Sarah Hanson-Young



Friday 30th August 2024

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

The Hon Tony Burke MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister and Minister Burke,

We write to you following the tragic death of 23-year-old Mano Yogalingam in Melbourne on Wednesday.

As you would be aware, Mano, like many others in Australia, spent more than a decade living precariously on rolling bridging visas, after he and his family were failed by our immigration system.

With thousands of others like Mano still living in limbo in our communities, we are writing to urge you to immediately provide a clear and timely pathway to permanency for all of those who were failed by the Fast Track system. This could be achieved via a mechanism similar to the temporary protection conversion to Resolution of Status Visas which is currently being rolled out.

Alternatively, we urge you to implement an expedited re-application process to assess protection claims fairly and justly. This process should be accompanied by broader and swift Ministerial Intervention to grant permanent residency to people who have compelling and compassionate reasons to remain in Australia yet may no longer have protection claims due to the decade-long delay caused by protracted Department processing.

Ultimately, Mano (who was an 11-year-old at the time) and his family fled an oppressive regime. Despite this, Mano's family's quest for safety in Australia was denied by our government, and Mano's visa application was subsequently rejected under the Fast Track system.



Around 31,000 people have been subjected to the unfair 'Fast Track' refugee status determination process yet, like Mano, these people have been living in Australia for over a decade: working, paying taxes, attending school and rebuilding their lives.

Yet Mano never experienced certain safety in Australia.

To our shame, many others are still languishing under our current system. Their temporary status affects every part of their life, including the ability to work or study, access services, and recover from trauma.

It is absolutely within our government's power to end this brutality.

The establishment of the new Administrative Review Tribunal and the abolition of both the Immigration Assessment Authority (IAA) and the Fast Track Process are welcome but this will not be enough to ensure the 8,500 asylum seekers currently living in limbo because of an arbitrary system, are given certainty.[1]

Citizen or non-citizen, as a nation we must respect every person's human rights, and it is time we put an end to this dark chapter in our nation's history.

We call on our government to rise above the politics of fear and provide a clear and timely pathway to permanency for all of those who were failed by the Fast Track system by providing them with permanent residency or implementing an expedited re-application process.

We cannot afford to lose another life to this broken system.

Yours Sincerely,

Kylea Tink MP

Adam Bandt MP

Dr Sophie Scamps MP

Dr Helen Haines MP

Dr Monique Ryan MP

Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP

Kate Chaney MP

Max Chandler-Mather MP

Stephen Bates MP

Zali Steggall OAM MP



Zoe Daniel MP

Senator David Shoebridge

Senator Mehreen Faruqi

Senator Larissa Waters

Senator Sarah Hanson-Young

Senator Nick McKim

Senator Jordon Steele-John

Senator Dorinda Cox

Senator Penny-Allman-Payne

Senator Peter Whish-Wilson

Senator Barbara Pocock

Senator Steph Hodgins-May

Senator David Pocock

Senator David Van

Senator Lidia Thorpe

[11](http://asrc.org.au) [Refugee protests build momentum as people demand an end to life in limbo \(asrc.org.au\)](http://asrc.org.au)



DR SOPHIE SCAMPS MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACKELLAR

19 September 2024

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister of Australia
House of Representatives
Australian Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Copy to: Minister Plibersek

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you in relation to the ongoing negotiations in the Senate on the Nature Positive legislation. Specifically, we write to urge you to agree to remove the exemption for Regional Forestry Agreements (**RFA**) in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

When Minister Plibersek released the State of the Environment Report in July 2022, she promised that change was coming for environmental protection in Australia after a decade of neglect. The Minister said the Report told a “story of crisis and decline in Australia’s environment.” We agreed with that sentiment then, and we still agree today.

It is now more than two years on, and your government has only made one change to our environment laws. That change came following pressure from the crossbench in both Houses to expand the water trigger, and only as part of negotiations to pass the Nature Repair Market Bill 2023 through the Senate.

The Nature Positive legislation currently before the Senate does nothing to fix our broken environment laws, and it seems unlikely that further legislation to do so will be forthcoming in this term of Parliament.

If the RFA exemption is not removed from the EPBC Act as part of the Nature Positive legislation, it will be difficult to credibly say that your Government has kept your promise to the Australian people. Worse still: forests will continue to be lost, species will go extinct, and climate change will be exacerbated.

We urge you to take action and remove the RFA exemption from the EPBC Act.

Yours sincerely,

s 22

Dr Sophie Scamps MP

Co-signatories:

Allegra Spender MP
Zali Steggall MP
Zoe Daniel MP
Monique Ryan MP

Senator Lidia Thorpe
Kylea Tink MP
Kate Chaney MP



PRIME MINISTER
The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

Reference: MC24-124278

02 OCT 2024

Dr Sophie Scamps MP
Member for Mackellar
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600


Dear Dr Scamps and co-signatories

Thank you for your letter of 19 September 2024 regarding the Government's nature positive environment reforms and Regional Forest Agreements.

The Australian Government supports a sustainable forestry industry, and is committed to reforming Australia's environmental laws to better protect, restore and manage our unique environment, as outlined under the Nature Positive Plan.

The legislation currently before the Parliament, to establish Environment Protection Australia and Environment Information Australia, forms the second stage of the Government's nature positive reforms. The appropriate application of national environmental standards to Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) is set to be part of the third stage of reforms.

As the issues you have raised fall within the portfolio responsibility of the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water, I have referred your correspondence to her office for further consideration. I have provided a copy of our correspondence to the Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Yours sincerely 

s 22

 ANTHONY ALBANESE

Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600
Telephone (02) 6277 7700
www.pm.gov.au



DR SOPHIE SCAMPS MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACKELLAR

24 September 2024

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister of Australia
House of Representatives
Australian Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

The undersigned members of the House crossbench write to express their strong support for the proposal from Dr Simon Longstaff of The Ethics Centre to establish a National Ethics Institute (NEI).

Ahead of the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook, we support Dr Longstaff's call for the government to invest in Australia's future by supporting this innovative and worthy proposal. The NEI would be the first of its kind in the world.

Why is it needed?

Australians are ever more distrustful of our institutions, religious organisations, corporations and leaders. Alongside emerging technologies, we're asking new ethical questions and from CEOs to athletes, public figures are being held to new standards of conduct beyond our legal frameworks.

To support these public figures with these new challenges, a new form of ethical infrastructure is necessary.

What are the benefits?

Australia has everything to gain by improving its ethical infrastructure.

Deloitte Access Economics has estimated a 10% improvement in Australia's ethical standards, by itself, would increase our GDP by \$45 billion per annum. Deloitte's research also showed how robust ethical infrastructure benefits Australian businesses: improving a business' ethical reputation can lead to a 7% increase in return on assets. And a 10% improvement in ethical behaviour is linked with a 2.7 – 6.6% increase in wages.

When we build our ethical capacity, we deliver better results for Australians.

The role of the NEI

The mission of the NEI would be twofold: to advise, and to educate.



DR SOPHIE SCAMPS MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACKELLAR

The NEI would serve as an independent adviser to decision-making bodies – government, business and institutions – on complex matters as they relate to policy change. It would provide expert and accessible thought leadership on issues of significant public importance.

Secondly, it would educate public servants, professionals and citizens, through educational programs and debate, to enhance ethical decision-making. It would publish educational content and present ethics programs. It would raise awareness and build capability in ethics at a broader societal level, and stimulate informed public debate. Finally, it would measure and track improvements in Australia's ethical infrastructure through metrics such as decision-making capacities of leaders, ethics awareness and the extent to which ethics is embedded within institutions.

What is the cost?

The NEI can provide its core services through interest from a \$53.3m endowment fund. Additional services will be provided on a fee-for-service basis.

The pre-budget submission to the Treasurer made this year by The Ethics Centre, the University of New South Wales and the University of Sydney, sought a one-off Commonwealth grant of \$33m to help co-fund the establishment of the NEI (in a similar way the Commonwealth Government assisted in establishing the Grattan Institute). That proposed Commonwealth contribution would be in addition to a contribution of \$10m from the private sector, and a further \$10m (in cash and in kind) made by UNSW and the University of Sydney over the first 5 years of the NEI's operation.

Given the NEI would help unlock a potential GDP uplift of \$45 billion annually, the start-up investment required is minimal.

Dr Longstaff is suggesting a cost-effective and clear pathway for Australia to become a global leader in ethics. We urge you to carefully consider his proposal.

Yours sincerely,

s 22

Dr Sophie Scamps MP

Co-signatories:

Zali Steggall MP
Kylea Tink MP
Kate Chaney MP

Andrew Wilkie MP
Helen Haines MP
Allegra Spender MP



By email to the ERC Committee:

Anthony.Albanese.MP@aph.gov.au

jim.chalmers.mp@aph.gov.au

minister@defence.gov.au

foreign.minister@dfat.gov.au

FinanceMinister@finance.gov.au

Minister.Butler@health.gov.au

Minister.King@mo.infrastructure.gov.au

Minister.Rowland@mo.communications.gov.au

stephen.jones.mp@aph.gov.au

cc:

attorney@ag.gov.au

MinisterMcCarthy@ia.pm.gov.au

Dear Prime Minister and Honourable members of the Expenditure Review Committee,

We are writing to you as the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook approaches, to request you kindly consider the following three priorities in the expenditure and revenue proposals. These proposals have not been prioritised in other funding announcements throughout the year.

1. Finance shortfall in legal assistance funding

We are incredibly disappointed to see that the new National Access to Justice Partnership funding announced on 6 September 2024 is a continuation of systemic underfunding of the legal services sector. This falls significantly below the funding recommendations outlined in the National Legal Assistance Partnership (NLAP) 2020-2025 review by Dr. Warren Mundy, and will leave the sector unable to meet increasing service demand. The Mundy review recommended \$459m of annual ongoing baseline funding, however, the new Partnership only offers an additional \$800m over 5 years. After indexation and wage parity this leaves only \$500m for capacity uplift – an average of \$100m a year, which is less than a quarter of the required \$459m.

Aboriginal Legal Services (ALS) have described the consultation process and funding outcome as a betrayal, a contravention of First Nations self-determination, and an abrogation of Closing the Gap commitments. Over the course of the last agreement, the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS) daily case numbers tripled, and the number of custody notifications increased by almost 50 percent. ATSILS have said they need \$400m per year to address the workload crisis, restore frozen services and expand to meet the legal needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Without this, First Peoples' overrepresentation in detention will continue to rise, with more unsentenced people in prison, longer detention periods, coerced guilty pleas, wrongful convictions, a significant increase in the incarceration of children, and a rise in deaths in custody.



Your government has held itself out to be the champion of First Peoples' rights, yet when it comes to making practical investments in programs, services and opportunities that would divert First Peoples away from the criminal legal system, the necessary funding is withheld.

This is a national issue and national leadership is urgently required. States and territories are enacting laws in direct contravention of best evidence and are making decisions that directly increase the demand for legal assistance, such as changes to bail laws and increased policing of young people. Under this country's international obligations, the federal government has a responsibility to ensure people have access to justice, which includes the right to be able to understand legal proceedings. This is a well-established principle in both domestic and international human rights law. Upholding these rights is critical for addressing the disproportionate rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander incarceration and is a key component of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC).

There is still an opportunity to rectify the significant shortfall in legal assistance funding through the decisions made by the Expenditure Review Committee. We strongly encourage your government to take responsibility, particularly on First Peoples' rights, and provide the necessary funding.

2. Funding for Healthcare in Custodial Settings

Places of detention across this continent are required to abide by the human rights obligations agreed to by this country, including the right to humane treatment under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT). Additionally, Australia has endorsed the United Nations Mandela Rules, which state that custodial healthcare services should provide services for medical treatment, mental health care, allied health and addiction services that are comparable in quality to services available to the general public.

Proper healthcare in places of detention will lower rates of recidivism and reduce long term public health expenditure. A government-commissioned report reviewing healthcare in custodial settings for First Peoples was handed to the Minister for Health in July this year. While the report has not been made public, we already know that urgent action is required as many recommendations from the 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and numerous coronial inquests thereafter relating to healthcare in custody are yet to be implemented. We acknowledge that meaningful action will require genuine engagement from federal, state and territory governments, and that work is underway with state and territory health ministers to deliver much needed reforms. We therefore urge you to show national leadership on this issue by committing funding to improve healthcare in custodial settings. This should include federal funding for the following reforms:

- **Funding for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) to deliver primary healthcare to First Peoples in custody.** ACCHOs generally provide better and more holistic care compared to mainstream prison healthcare. For ACCHOs to deliver care in prisons will require increased funding to support workforce deployment in custodial settings.
- We understand the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) has completed in-depth costings for the full provision of primary care to people in custody for



nine ACCHOs that have expressed interest and capacity. We encourage you to adequately fund these trials so that ACCHOs are able to deliver these services.

- **Funding for the development of national standards and improved data collection and monitoring.**

This includes:

- the development of national, measurable standards for healthcare in adult and youth custodial settings; routine data collection and reporting, including against the proposed standards, through the AIHW's National Prisoner Health Data Collection and investment in the proposed National Youth Justice Health Data Collection;
 - the Productivity Commission measuring all aspects of healthcare access and health outcomes in custodial settings and including key metrics derived from AIHW collections in relevant sections of the Report on Government Services;
 - and requiring all custodial health bodies across the country to use My Health Record to ensure continuity of care from the community, through the prison system, and back out again.
- **Funding to provide incarcerated people access to the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)** to ensure that important medicines and health services not currently available can be provided.
 - **Funding to establish a dedicated custodial health unit within the Department of Health**, accountable to the Health Minister, with coordinating responsibility for custodial health and tasked with overseeing and evaluating the implementation of reforms across levels of government.

3. Funding the Australian Human Rights Commission for the monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations of the RCIADIC

There have been 15 First Nations deaths in custody since the start of this year. Last month, a 17-year-old boy became the second child to die in Western Australia's detention system in just 10 months, after Yamatji 16-year-old Cleveland Dodd took his own life last year. Nevertheless, we have seen no movement by your government on implementation of the RCIADIC recommendations, apart from real-time reporting of deaths in custody.

The role of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner was established in 1992 in response to RCIADIC. Despite initially working on the monitoring of the implementation of RCIADIC recommendations in its initial years, this work was later discontinued. On 7 December 2023, the Senate passed a motion to have the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner monitor the implementation of RCIADIC recommendations. To carry out this role effectively, the office of the Social Justice Commissioner will need to consult nationally and establish a monitoring framework to provide effective oversight that will lead to meaningful progress.



The Commissioner's office has confirmed that it currently lacks the necessary resourcing to perform these functions and requires additional funding. It has undertaken initial costings for this additional responsibility. In a letter in March of this year, members of the Crossbench wrote to the Minister for Indigenous Australians calling for the required funding to be provided. We call on the government to allocate an additional \$3.5 million over the next three years, and \$900,000 annually thereafter, to resource the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner to perform these critical functions.

We hope the government recognises the urgent need and takes the opportunity to show leadership and provide much-needed assistance to the most vulnerable people in our community.

Yours sincerely,

Senator Lidia Thorpe
Senator for Victoria

Zali Steggal MP
Member for Warringah

Kylea Tink MP
Member for North Sydney

Senator Fatima Payman
Senator for Western Australia

Kate Chaney MP
Member for Curtin

Sophie Scamps MP
Member for Mackellar

Andrew Wilkie MP
Member for Clark

Dr. Helen Haines MP
Member for Indi



Hon. Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister

Via email

21 November 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

As independent parliamentarians, we reaffirm our commitment to work for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Every nuclear weapon that exists is a humanitarian catastrophe waiting to happen. Nuclear weapons do not promote security, they undermine it. We don't accept the everlasting presence of these weapons. We must all work to put them in the past.

We recognise the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a powerful contribution to this work, complementing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty.

We welcome the Labor Party's reaffirmed commitment to sign and ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and the government's decision to observe its Second Meeting of States Parties from 27 November to 1 December 2023.

We urge the Government to advance its signature and ratification of the Ban Treaty without delay, to bring Australia in line with our South-East Asian and Pacific island neighbours and the international majority on the illegality of nuclear weapons. This is something we can, and must do.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Chaney MP
Federal Member for Curtin

Zoe Daniel MP
Federal Member for Goldstein

Dr. Helen Haines MP
Federal Member for Indi

Senator David Pocock
Senator for the Australian Capital Territory

Dr. Monique Ryan MP
Federal Member for Kooyong

Dr. Sophie Scamps MP
Federal Member for Mackellar

Allegra Spender MP
Federal Member for Wentworth

Zali Steggall OAM MP
Federal Member for Warringah

Senator Lidia Thorpe
Senator for Victoria

Kylea Tink MP
Federal Member for North Sydney

Andrew Wilkie MP
Federal Member for Clark

CC:
Senator the Hon. Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs



PRIME MINISTER
The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

Reference: MC23-101855

Dear Honourable Members and Senators

Thank you for your letter dated 21 November 2023, regarding the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

While Australia is not a State Party to the TPNW, the Government shares the Treaty's ambition of a world without nuclear weapons. Australia is considering the TPNW systematically and methodically as part of our ambitious agenda to advance nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. As you are aware, this included Ms Susan Templeman MP attending the Second Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW as an observer in November.

The Government is focused on practical and constructive efforts to bolster the non-proliferation and disarmament regime and work towards a world free of nuclear weapons. Earlier this year, Australia co-hosted the ASEAN Regional Forum Nuclear Risk Reduction Workshop with the Philippines. We are exploring ways to take this work forward in the region, including in ASEAN-led forums.

I spoke about the dangers of nuclear weapons use and of nuclear proliferation in my keynote speech to the Shangri-La Dialogue. Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs, also used her statement to the UN General Assembly in September to underscore the priority Australia accords to practical measures to reduce the risk of miscalculation and to prevent conflict in our region.

Our approach is underpinned by a recognition of the devastating humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons use and a clear-eyed assessment of the international security environment. Eliminating nuclear weapons is a long-term endeavour and, as long as nuclear weapons exist, Australia will work with the international community to reduce the risk of nuclear weapons use.

I close by assuring you of the Government's commitment to working with partners to support the peace and stability of our region. Thank you again for writing.

I have copied this letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Yours sincerely

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ANTHONY ALBANESE