

31 July 2021

**Via email:** *[nationalplanfeedback@dss.gov.au](mailto:nationalplanfeedback@dss.gov.au)*

To whom it may concern,

**Re: National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children**

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute feedback and input into the next National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.

The Victorian Pride Lobby is a community based advocacy group that works towards equality, social justice and advancing human rights for lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ+), gay and same-gender attracted Victorians.

We do not speak in the place of trans and gender diverse, intersex and asexual community members, but rather work constructively, cooperatively and respectfully with transgender, intersex, asexual and other community organisations to achieve social change for the broader community.

We recommend that the plan include the following commitments to address the issue of violence against LBQ+ women:

- further government-funded research, data and surveys on causes of violence against LBQ+ women, including LBQ+ trans and intersex women
- funded and appropriate LBQ+ specific family, domestic and sexual violence support services
- funded telephone services for rural and regional LBQ+ women experiencing violence, including LGBTI Health Alliance's QLife and Switchboard's Rainbow Door
- training of mainstream services on LBQ+ inclusivity
- improved and more flexible methods of reporting violence and seeking assistance
- expansion of LGBTIQ+ liaison officers in police forces
- increased visibility of LBQ+ women in research, awareness campaigns, perpetrator programs and emergency housing

We welcome any opportunity to discuss these issues further to ensure that the plan responds to the needs of LBQ+ women, and also encourage you to consult widely to understand the particular needs of trans, intersex and asexual women.

Yours sincerely,

**Nevena Spirovska and Evie Potter**  
Co-Convenors, Victorian Pride Lobby