

Committee Secretary  
Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
[FirstNationswomenchildren.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:FirstNationswomenchildren.sen@aph.gov.au)

## Inquiry into missing and murdered First Nations women and children

### Who we are

WESNET is Australia's national peak body for specialist women's domestic and family violence services, with almost 350 eligible members across Australia. WESNET represents a range of organisations and individuals including women's refuges, shelters, safe houses, and information/referral services.

### Submission

WESNET thanks the committee for the opportunity to make a submission to this inquiry.

WESNET has committed to actively work to be informed by the experiences and advocacy of First Nations women, and to support First Nations women in their quest for safety and equality. That commitment extends to not speaking for First Nations women without endorsement by representative Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's organisations, and without an underpinning basis of sound and thorough consultation. Unfortunately time and resource constraints have precluded us from being able to meet these standards.

Instead we note strongly that there are many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women working to create safe and connected families in which women and children can flourish, by speaking out about violence and supporting others, including men, to create positive changes. Some examples of this work include: the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance, the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara Women's Council (NPY Women's Council), Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation, and the Wirrpanda Foundation's Deadly Sista Girlz program.

We understand that Domestic Violence New South Wales (DVNSW) - who have an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Steering Committee - are making a submission to the inquiry. We recommend this submission to you.

### Signed



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*WESNET acknowledges and pays respects to the Traditional Owners and Custodians of all the lands on which we live and work.*