



## The Hon Pru Goward MP

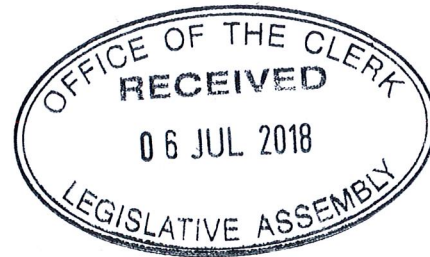
Minister for Family and Community Services

Minister for Social Housing

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

EAP18/5499

Ms Helen Minnican  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Parliament of New South Wales  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Ms Minnican

I refer to your correspondence dated 6 June 2018 containing a petition lodged by Ms Jo Haylen MP, Member for Summer Hill regarding action to stop sexual assault on university and TAFE campuses.

Sexual assault is a horrendous crime. The NSW Government takes sexual assault seriously and is committed to preventing sexual assault and providing safe and appropriate responses to victims of sexual assault. I acknowledge the concerns of many in the community regarding the prevalence of sexual assault on university campuses.

The NSW Government is investing more than \$200 million over four years for sexual assault responses across the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS), Health and Justice clusters. We are also in the final stages of developing a Sexual Assault Strategy.

The NSW Sexual Assault Strategy is the first whole of government and whole of community approach to sexual assault for NSW. The strategy has the following focus areas: prevention, education, supporting people who have experienced sexual assault, holding perpetrators to account and improving the system as a whole. Strategy development has included consultation with a broad range of stakeholders and the public.

The Sexual Assault Strategy recognises that while sexual assault can happen to anyone, some groups face higher risks and barriers in reporting and seeking support. University students were one such group considered in development of the Strategy.

Throughout the development of the Sexual Assault Strategy I met with Vice Chancellors and the chair of Universities Australia to discuss their engagement in the Australian Human Rights Commission's research and their efforts to improve prevention of, and response to sexual assault. I also hosted a consultation with 60 university staff and students to discuss issues related to sexual assault on university campuses.

The NSW Sexual Assault Strategy includes TAFE and university campuses and residential colleges in its scope. The Strategy supports the implementation of the recommendations of the Australian Human Rights Commission 'Change the Course' Report.

The Attorney General and I have asked the NSW Law Reform Commission to review the sexual consent provisions in the Crimes Act to determine if the law needs to be amended to protect victims better. We will examine whether the consent provisions in our Crimes Act require simplification and modernisation.

Thank you again for providing this petition regarding the important issue of sexual assault on TAFE and university campuses in NSW.

If you would like more information, please contact Melinda Norton, Director Women NSW on 9248 0800 or email [Melinda.Norton@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Melinda.Norton@facs.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

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

04 JUL 2018

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