



## 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

Ref. AF18/38102

Ms Melanie Gibbons  
Chair  
Committee on Children and Young People  
60 Walder Road  
HAMMONVILLE NSW 2170

Dear Ms ~~Gibbons~~

*Melanie*

I am writing to provide the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Children and Young People (the Committee) with an update on the recommendation that I undertake a review of the incidence of violence against children and young people. This update is due to the Committee by mid-February 2019.

The recommendation to conduct the review was made by the Committee following their review of the NSW Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP) 2017 annual report.

Please see the enclosed update of the work that has been undertaken by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services and the NSW Advocate for Children and Young People.

Yours sincerely

Pru Goward MP  
Encl.

**Parliamentary Joint Committee on Children and Young People – 2017 Review of the Annual Reports of the Advocate for Children and Young People and the Children's Guardian**

Update regarding Recommendation 1: *That the Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault conducts a review of the incidence of violence against children.*

The Final Report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission), released on 15 December 2017, included the recommendation that the Commonwealth conduct and publish a nationally representative prevalence study on a regular basis to establish the extent of child maltreatment in institutional and non-institutional contexts in Australia (Measuring extent in the future - Recommendation 2.1).

The Commonwealth advised in June 2018 that it “accepted in principle” this recommendation and will consult with relevant stakeholders to determine how to conduct this study.

In its June 2018 response to the Royal Commission’s final report, the NSW Government welcomed the Commonwealth conducting this study and agreed to work closely with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions to develop nationally agreed key terms and definitions in relation to child sexual abuse for the purpose of data collection and reporting by national bodies.

It is expected that this study will enable NSW and other jurisdictions to have a better understanding of the incidence of violence against children.

The Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) and Justice are leading the coordination of the NSW implementation of the Royal Commission recommendations. NSW will provide annual progress reports every December until 2022. This will include the implementation of recommendations that the Commonwealth is leading or require a national approach.

The Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP) is working towards greater awareness of the instance and impact of violence against children in NSW, including increasing momentum of the Ending Violence Against Children Campaign “Now and Forever” campaign through social marketing and engagement with Government, NGOs, celebrities and the business community.

FACS continues to implement initiatives aimed at supporting children to remain living safely with their families. FACS utilises the insights ACYP obtain from consultation with children and young people to inform the design and provision of services.