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(insert date)

Senator The Hon Anne Ruston,
Minister for Families and Social Services
Minister for Women's Safety
Manager of Government Business in the Senate
senator.ruston@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator Ruston,

I write to express my concern that the government has failed to respond to the important recommendation from the bi-partisan parliamentary committee that the National Plan should address all victims of violence, not just women.

The parliamentary committee made it clear that our governments wasted \$3 billion spent on the previous National Plan over the last decade because it [failed](#) to achieve the stated goal of reducing family, domestic and sexual violence.

You have just released the draft of the new National Plan which is essentially a revamp of the previous failed policies, largely promoting feminist ideology which has no bearing on true causes of domestic violence. The draft plan is not evidence-based and ignores abundant research showing the key cause of domestic violence is not gender inequality (see [this](#) extract from a submission to the parliamentary inquiry, summarising the proper research on this issue).

Instead, the plan promotes what *Our Watch* proudly admits is a program for remaking our society - a "gender transformative" [program](#) for "social, cultural and structural and systemic change". A program based on advancing women at the expense of men which has nothing to do with preventing domestic violence, but simply promoting feminist ideology.

It is greatly disappointing that your Conservative government is selling out the majority of quiet Australians who wish to see fair treatment for men and women as well as proper prevention strategies for domestic violence and protection for all victims. Perhaps most important are the children who are most at risk from abuse from their mothers. It is shameful that key government institutions refuse to publish the latest data on gender of perpetrators of child abuse (see this [link](#) revealing the last AIHW data published in 1996.)

The inclusion of coercive control in the National Plan is particularly alarming as experience in the UK has shown this supposedly gender-neutral legislation has been used almost exclusively against men, despite psychological research showing women are just as likely to perpetrate this behaviour.

I urge you to listen to the voices of ordinary men and women who are alarmed to see the government pandering to ideologues promoting misguided policies that will do nothing to reduce violence in the community but simply create division between men and women.

Yours sincerely,

(Please include your full name and address – this is essential to show that you are a real person and legitimate voter.)