

26 June 2020

Anne Butcher

Ending Violence Against Women Qld

Dear Anne,

Thank you and follow up on Summit

Thank you again for your participation in Australia's first Domestic and Family Violence COVID-19 Virtual Summit on Wednesday 6 May 2020.

Between the Summit, associated satellite events, and the online survey, we heard from over 400 people about the effect the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the lives of people impacted by domestic and family violence. Examples of themes include:

- COVID-19 has put additional strain on accommodation options and access to affordable housing – particularly in rural and regional areas. Almost a third of online survey respondents made statements that they felt unsafe or vulnerable within their own homes during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Social distancing measures present challenges to the way the domestic and family violence service systems respond – we need to continue to adapt to be able to provide support and continue to strengthen integrated service responses to ensure victim safety and perpetrator accountability.
- Social isolation can cut people off - over one third of survey respondents made reference to feelings of being trapped or isolated due to the impacts of COVID-19.
- A lot of rapidly changing information can cause confusion – we need to ensure we communicate through trusted and relevant channels. 61% of respondents to the survey said that they had seen a public campaign about addressing domestic and family violence
- Perpetrators use fear of COVID-19 to further exercise control. A substantial number of respondents to the online survey made statements about COVID-19 making it easier for the person using violence to exercise their power and control.

Your participation and active contribution to the Summit has informed the Government's immediate response to the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to contribute as we work through the long tail of the pandemic and emerge to a new normal.

My recent media release (<http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2020/6/18/uniting-and-recovering-from-covid19>) outlines the actions achieved to date as a direct result of the Summit discussion and of input from stakeholders around COVID-19 impacts on domestic and family violence.

We will continue to work on initiatives. Although we are seeing a significant easing of restrictions around COVID-19, we know its impacts will have a "long tail". For this reason, we will continue to

develop responses based on Summit outcomes. We look forward to continuing to engage and update you on these.

Information on future actions emerging from the Summit will be available at: www.qld.gov.au/notnownotevertogther

Please be assured the important input provided at the Summit will continue to inform the Government's program of reform guided by the *Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016-2026*.

We all know there is more to do. Preventing and responding to domestic and family violence is everybody's responsibility as we unite and recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I know we can achieve so much together and I look forward to continuing to work with you on responding to this unprecedented situation we find ourselves in, and into the future on ongoing broader reforms for the delivery of domestic and family violence services.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Di Farmer".

Di Farmer MP

Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence