



# Secretaries Working Group on Gender-Based Violence

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## Padma Raman – Annotated Agenda

Tuesday, 9 July 2024 | 4.00pm-5.00pm | John Starling Room | Ground Floor | ONC

### Handling note

- You (Padma Raman) will be invited by Secretary Davis to speak to Agenda Item 3A, Progress update on the 1 May National Cabinet on gender-based violence.

s 47C , s 47B(a)



CHAIR	Professor Glyn Davis AC, Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet		
AGENDA ITEM		LEAD	TIME
1.	OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY (5 min) <i>The Chair (Secretary Davis) will lead this item.</i>	Chair	4.00
2.	CHAIR'S UPDATE AND PURPOSE OF THIS GROUP (5 min) <i>The Chair (Secretary Davis) will lead this item.</i>	Chair	4.05
ITEMS FOR ENDORSEMENT (5 min) <i>The Chair (Secretary Davis) will lead this item.</i>		Chair	4.10

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AGENDA ITEM	LEAD	TIME
<p>A. Terms of Reference</p> <p><i>If needed - background on drafting of ToRs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PM&amp;C drafted the ToRs based on the Secretaries Board ToRs and Interdepartmental Committee on National Cabinet and gender-based violence Work Plan.</li> <li>OFW support Services Australia being included in Secretaries Working Group meetings and IDC meetings as needed, and can facilitate this through our secretariat.</li> </ul>		
<p>B. Work Plan</p> <p><i>If needed - background on the Work Plan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PM&amp;C welcome feedback through the Secretaries Working Group secretariat email on the focus of future meetings through the Work Plan.</li> <li>Meetings may need to shift depending on the priorities and timeframes of the IDC meetings and <span style="background-color: #cccccc;">s 47E(d)</span>.</li> </ul>		
<p>3. 1 MAY NATIONAL CABINET ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (20 min total)</p>	Chair	4.15
<p>A. Progress update (approx. 10 min)</p> <p><i><b>You (Padma Raman) will lead this item. You have approx. 5 min to talk and 5 min for questions or discussion).</b></i></p> <p><i>Purpose: to provide an update on progress against the 1 May National Cabinet outcomes, including work across governments through new and existing governance mechanisms.</i></p> <p><u>Overview of 1 May National Cabinet</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Note</b> there is significant work underway across governments and <b>thank</b> members for their collaboration and efforts to progress the work arising from the 1 May National Cabinet. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PM&amp;C is coordinating this work across all levels of government, including through an Interdepartmental Committee on National Cabinet and Ending Gender-Based Violence. Office for Women is co-chairing this IDC with DSS.</li> <li>PM&amp;C is also using existing Commonwealth-State mechanisms, including First Secretaries Group and First Deputies Group, and the Women and Women's Safety Senior Officials group, to engage with states and territories.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<p>4.15 -</p> <p>4.25</p> <p>Approx</p>




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*Provide an overview of National Cabinet actions if not already raised:*

- Strengthening prevention efforts through targeted, evidence-based approaches to build on the current universal approaches to ending gender-based violence. **Led by the Commonwealth (Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission, PM&C and DSS).**
  - Improving police responses to high risk and serial perpetrators of gender-based violence, including considering use of focused deterrence and fixated threat strategies, **led by AGD through the Police Ministers Council (PMC) and the Standing Council of Attorneys-General (SCAG).**
  - Strengthening national consistency and driving best practice approaches across jurisdictions, including relating to risk assessment of high risk perpetrators and responses to sexual assault, **led by the Council of Australian Federation (CAF).**
  - Improving information sharing about perpetrators across systems and jurisdictions, **led by the Commonwealth (Finance) and Victoria, working through the Data and Digital Ministerial Committee (DDMM).**
- **Note** First Ministers also agreed on maintaining a focus on missing and murdered First Nations women and children, and the impact of domestic and family violence in First Nations communities.

#### Update on Rapid Review

- **Note** Secretary Griggs and I will give a brief update of the prevention work – specifically the Rapid Review – and I'll ask other Secretaries leading other National Cabinet to provide updates also.
- **Note** PM&C is the secretariat for the Rapid Review of evidence-based approaches to prevent gender-based violence, with a particular focus on homicide:
  - The Rapid Review is being led by an Expert Panel appointed on 28 May 2024
  - The Rapid Review is being co-convened by Secretary Ray Griggs, and the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner Micaela Cronin and myself.
  - The Rapid Review is intended to complement and respect existing work and processes to address gender-based violence already underway, particularly under the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children*.

AGENDA ITEM	LEAD	TIME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– The Rapid Review has had seven official meetings of the Panel (since 28 May 2024), plus a small number of ad hoc meetings.</li><li>– The Panel is undertaking a number of targeted stakeholder consultations via a series of roundtables, which leverage existing government mechanisms where relevant such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Women and Women’s Safety Senior Officials Group</li><li>o the First Nations National Plan Steering Committee</li><li>o Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council on family, domestic and sexual violence.</li></ul></li><li>– The Panel will deliver its final report to Ministers (<i>Minister Gallagher and Minister Rishworth</i>) on 15 August 2024, and also provide the report to the Prime Minister to inform the September National Cabinet.</li></ul>		
<div>s 47C</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• </li></ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ask</b> Secretary Griggs if he has further reflections on the Rapid Review.</li></ul> <div>s 47B(a)</div> 		
<div>s 47E(d)</div> 		

AGENDA ITEM	LEAD	TIME
<p>s 47E(d)</p> <p><u>Seek updates from other secretaries</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Invite</b> secretaries to provide updates on any work they are leading, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Secretary Jenny Wilkinson (Finance) on information sharing</li><li>– Secretary Katherine Jones (AGD) on police and justice responses</li><li>– CEO Jody Broun (NIAA) on the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered First Nations women and children (due to report on 15 August).</li></ul></li></ul>		
<p>B. Emerging Priorities and next steps</p> <p><i>The Chair (Secretary Davis) will lead this item.</i></p> <p>s 47E(d)</p>	Chair	4.25
<p>4. Policy opportunities (20 min total)</p> <p><i>The Chair (Secretary Davis) will lead this item.</i></p>	Chair	4.35
<p>A. s 47E(d) (approx. 10 min)</p> <p><i>Secretary Davis will invite secretaries to discuss prioritisation of proposals within their portfolios and any engagement with minister's offices.</i></p> <p>s 47E(d), s 47C</p>		
<p>B. Systems abuse (approx. 10 min)</p> <p><i>Secretary Davis will invite secretaries to discuss systems within their portfolios that are vulnerable to exploitation by perpetrators, and consider next steps.</i></p> <p><i>You may wish to:</i></p> <p>s 47C, s 47E(d)</p>		

AGENDA ITEM		LEAD	TIME
5.	OTHER BUSINESS (5 min)  <i>The Chair (Secretary Davis) will lead this item.</i>  <i>You may wish to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Note</b> the timing of the next Secretaries Working Group meetings are yet to be confirmed and may vary to align with deliverables from the IDC and Rapid Review.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– The Secretariat is considering scheduling the next meeting earlier than 7 August to meet ahead <sup>s 47C</sup> [REDACTED] <sup>s 34(2)</sup> [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</li></ul></li></ul>	Chair	4.55
6.	CLOSE	Chair	5.00

**Next meeting**  
Wednesday, 7 August 2024 [TBC] | One National Circuit, Barton



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# Chair's Brief

Secretaries Working Group – Tuesday, 9 July 2024

## Agenda Item 1 and 2 – Opening and Chair's update

### PM&C Recommended Action

- **Acknowledgement of Country**
- **Welcome** Secretaries to the first Secretaries Working Group on Gender-based Violence (SWG) meeting
- **Provide** an overview of the purpose of the SWG - to ensure a coordinated and ambitious approach to achieve National Cabinet outcomes.
  - a. **Thank** Secretary Jones for suggesting the SWG be established.
  - b. **Note** that other agency heads may be co-opted to meetings, as needed, particularly when discussing Commonwealth systems.
- **Invite** any feedback or concerns on the Terms of Reference and Work Plan and **seek** endorsement.
  - a. **Note** that endorsed Terms of Reference will be published on PM&C's website.

### Preferred outcome

- **Endorsement** of the Terms of Reference and Work Plan.

### Key Issues, actions to resolve, sensitivities

- Ending gender-based violence is a top priority for Government, which is why the Government held an urgent National Cabinet meeting on 1 May.
  - The Department of Social Services, and Secretary Griggs, are the policy lead on gender-based violence, including as the steward of the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032 (National Plan), however action requires a whole of government effort.
- The SWG will drive whole-of-Government progress to achieve the 1 May National Cabinet on gender-based violence (National Cabinet) outcomes, and support generation and testing of ideas for Government to bring forth to National Cabinet when it meets again in September.
  - There is an opportunity for the SWG to strengthen collaboration across Commonwealth departments to stop homicides, building on efforts under way under National Plan.
- PM&C is coordinating work on the actions arising from National Cabinet across all levels of government to ensure a consistent and collaborative approach in the lead up to the National Cabinet meeting on 6 September.

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- o At the Commonwealth level, PM&C is convening a Band 2/Band 1 level Interdepartmental Committee on National Cabinet and ending gender-based violence (IDC) with the Department of Social Services. Membership of the IDC reflects that of this SWG. This IDC has met four times.
- o At the jurisdictional level, PM&C is working with state and territories through officials and ministerial forums, to ensure clear understanding of roles and responsibilities, and providing visibility on how the four outcomes will come together as a cohesive package.

## Background

- A National Cabinet on gender-based violence was convened on 1 May to discuss improved government response to gender-based violence in response to the increased number of intimate partner homicides in 2024. National Cabinet agreed to four key actions.
  1. Strengthening prevention efforts through targeted, evidence-based approaches to build on the current universal approaches to ending gender-based violence. Led by the Commonwealth.
  2. Improving police responses to high risk and serial perpetrators of gender-based violence, including considering use of focused deterrence and fixated threat strategies, led by AGD through the Police Ministers Council and the Standing Council of Attorneys-General.
  3. Strengthening national consistency and driving best practice approaches across jurisdictions, including relating to risk assessment of high risk perpetrators and responses to sexual assault, led by the Council for the Australian Federation.
  4. Improving information sharing about perpetrators across systems and jurisdictions, led Commonwealth and Victoria, working through the Data and Digital Ministerial Committee.
- First Ministers also agreed on maintaining a focus on missing and murdered First Nations women and children, and the impact of domestic and family violence in First Nations communities.
- The Office for Women is supporting coordination and monitoring of progress against these actions across governments, noting \$3.9 million over four years was committed in the 2024-25 for additional resourcing for the Office for Women to support whole-of-government coordination efforts towards women's safety.
  - In addition, ending gender-based violence is the first priority area for *Working for Women: A Strategy for Gender Equality*.



# Agenda Item 3A – Progress update

## PM&C Recommended Action

- **Invite** Ms Padma Raman, Executive Director, Office for Women to members on progress against the 1 May National Cabinet outcomes, including work across governments and through new and existing governance mechanisms.

## Preferred outcome/

- **Note** the progress update.

## Key Issues, actions to resolve, sensitivities

- There are a number of competing governance structures and policy levers involved in progressing actions against the National Cabinet outcomes, <sup>s 47E(d), s 47C</sup> [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
  - Office for Women is working with both Commonwealth and state and territory departments to determine ways to effectively align work to ensure appropriate advice is provided to National Cabinet for consideration when it meets again on 6 September 2024.
- On 5 July 2024, the Women and Women's Safety Ministerial Council agreed to consider options to use the Council to accelerate change throughout July and August 2024, including stronger engagement with the Standing Council of Attorneys-General, Data and Digital Ministers Meeting and the Police Ministers Meeting, in the lead up to the next National Cabinet meeting.
  - Further discussion is required to determine the best approach to this engagement, including joint meetings and out-of-session work - particularly given the complexities involved with bringing together the work of multiple ministerial bodies.

## Background

- The Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches is facilitating stakeholder roundtables throughout June and July 2024. The Rapid review will report to Government by 15 August 2024.
  - Secretary Ray Griggs (DSS) is a co-convenor of the Rapid Review, alongside Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner, Micaela Cronin, and Ms Raman.
- <sup>s 47B(a)</sup> [REDACTED]
  - Secretary Katherine Jones (AGD) is leading this work for the Commonwealth.
- The Commonwealth completed a stock-take of existing Commonwealth focused data assets and data gaps to inform next steps (Commonwealth data placemat), and is considering advice for Digital and Data Ministers for consideration.
  - Secretary Jenny Wilkinson (Finance) is leading this work for the Commonwealth.

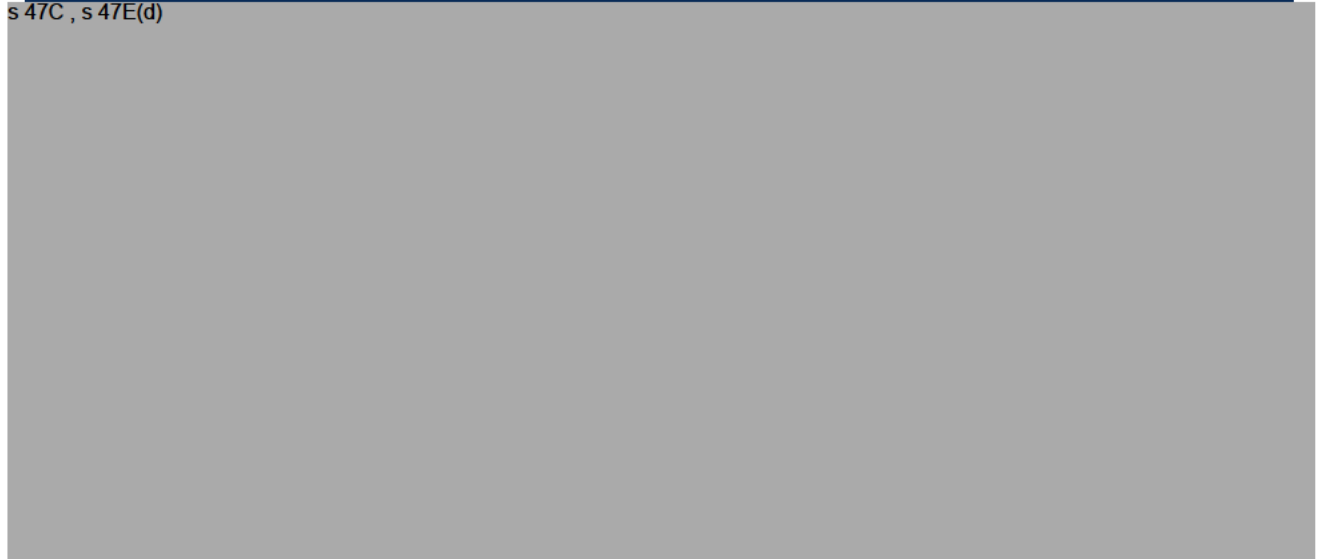
s 47B(a)



## Agenda Item 3B – Emerging priorities

### PM&C Recommended Action

s 47C , s 47E(d)



### Key Issues, actions to resolve, sensitivities

- s 47C , s 47E(d)
  - s 47B(a)
- s 47C(d)
  -
- s 47C , s 47E(d)
  - There are a number of critical and relevant reports which are currently intended for release in mid-August 2024, including the *Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches* (Rapid Review), the *Inquiry into missing and murdered First Nations women and children* and the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission's first *Yearly Report to Parliament*.
- s 47C s 34(2) on the progress of the Rapid Review, and to

s 47C

- o Office for women will consult departments leading actions (DSS, Finance, AGD and NIAA).

s 47C

## Background

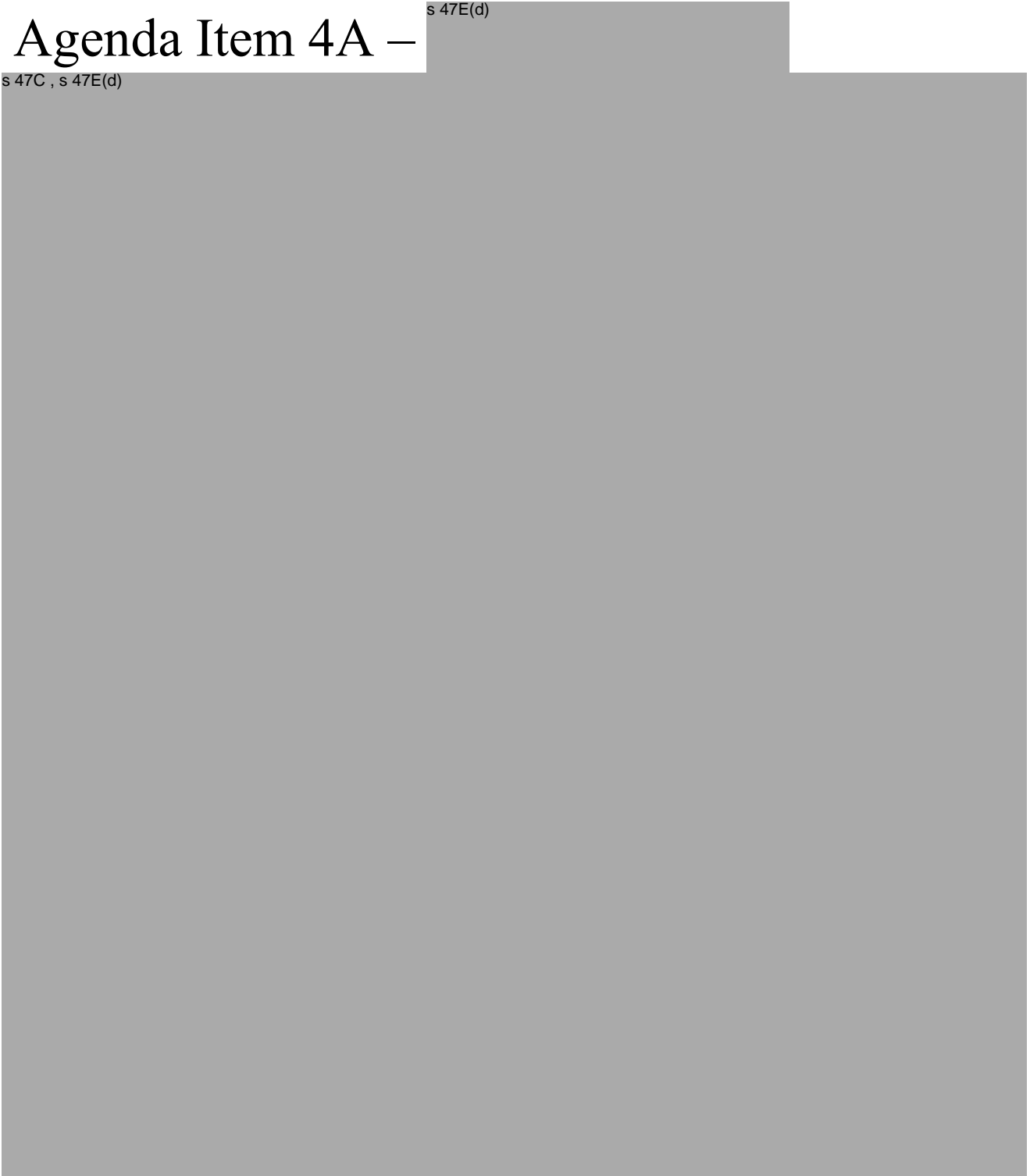
- The next National Cabinet has been confirmed for 6 September 2024, however this date is yet to be publicly announced. It is expected the agenda will focus on gender-based violence.
  - o PM&C will lead the overarching briefing for the Prime Minister with papers to be drafted by lead departments (AGD and Finance). PM&C will formally task departments and support drafting where appropriate.

s 47B(a)

## Agenda Item 4A –

s 47E(d)

s 47C , s 47E(d)



## Agenda Item 4B – Systems Abuse

### PM&C Recommended Action

- **Discuss** systems that are vulnerable to exploitation by perpetrators that have been identified within their portfolios.
  - **Note** considerable reform work has already been undertaken towards addressing systems abuse, especially in relation to family law.
- **Seek** agreement that a safety by design approach to Commonwealth systems should be developed and sequentially implemented.
- **Discuss** where more immediate improvements to Commonwealth systems that are being used to perpetrate gender-based violence can be made.
  - Refer to *Meeting Paper 4B: Systems Abuse*.

### Preferred outcome

- The discussion should lead to:
  - **Agreement** on progressing initial internal reviews for systems and services that are vulnerable to systems abuse, or that can be reformed with safety by design principles.
  - An understanding of the specific changes that could come to s 47E(d) or be implemented ahead of safety by design principles.

### Key Issues, actions to resolve, sensitivities

- There is increasing pressure on Government to improve systems to ensure they do not enable perpetrators of family and domestic violence to manipulate systems to perpetrate gender-based violence.
  - s 47C
  - The Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches has raised systems abuse in early discussions and it may emerge in recommendations. Note that the report will be released on 15 August 2024.
- It is critical to gain a whole of government understanding of systems abuse, and identify Commonwealth levers to address gender-based violence enacted through systems abuse.
  - For example, better regulation of Government systems such as tax system, amending eligibility requirements and ensuring better consideration of gender-based violence when determining eligibility for social services, allowing victim-survivors to commence an income support application in advance of leaving a violent relationship.
- Noting the complexities associated with Government systems, particularly the social security and tax systems, there may need to be a staged approach to this work s 47C
  - 
  - Safety by design principles being developed to underpin a longer-term review across Commonwealth systems and sequential roll out.

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Chair's Brief prepared by:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	8 July 2024
SES Clearance:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	, Gender-Based Violence and Social Policy, Office for Women
Deputy Secretary clearance	Padma Raman, Office for Women	
Consultation:	Nil	





# Secretaries Working Group on ending gender-based violence

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## Minutes

Tuesday, 9 July 2024 | 4:00pm – 5:00pm | John Starling Room, Ground Floor | ONC

**Chair:** Professor Glyn Davis AC | Secretary | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

### Item 1: Opening and Welcome to Country

- The Chair provided an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed members to the meeting.
- The Board **noted** the following members were apologies:
  - Mr Blair Comley PSM, Secretary for the Department of Health and Aged Care - represented by Professor Anthony Lawler.
  - Mr Jim Betts, Secretary for the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts – represented by Mr David Mackay.
  - Ms Jenny Wilkinson PSM, Secretary for the Department of Finance – represented by Mr Nathan Williamson.
  - Dr Steven Kennedy PSM, Secretary for the Department of the Treasury – represented by Ms Sam Reinhardt.
  - Ms Natalie James, Secretary for the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations – represented by Ms Tania Rishniw.

### Item 2: Chairs update and purpose of this group

- Members **noted** that ending gender-based violence is a priority for the Government, which is why an urgent standalone National Cabinet meeting took place on 1 May and another is planned for 6 September 2024.
- The Chair thanked Secretary Jones for proposing this Secretaries Working Group (SWG) be established, and noted that Secretary Griggs has the policy lead on gender-based violence including as the steward of the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-32*.
- Members **noted** PM&C is coordinating work on the actions arising from National Cabinet across portfolios and levels of government to ensure a consistent and collaborative approach in the lead up to the September National Cabinet meeting.
  - Members **noted** this includes an SES Band2/1 Interdepartmental Committee (the IDC), which is co-chaired by PM&C and DSS.

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## Item 2.A: Endorsement of Terms of Reference

- Members **noted** the drafted Terms of Reference for the SWG and provided feedback.
- Members **agreed** that an updated Terms of Reference, more strongly focused on the role of the SWG in supporting National Cabinet deliberations in September 2024, be brought back for endorsement at the next SWG meeting. Members **agreed** to provide proposed updates to the secretariat.

## Item 2.B: Endorsement of Work Plan

- Members **noted** the draft Work Plan for the SWG and provided feedback.
- Members **agreed** that an updated Work Plan, clarifying that the priorities of the SWG are to oversee development of a Commonwealth package of proposals ahead of National Cabinet and agree changes that could be made to Commonwealth systems to stop them being used to perpetrate gender-based violence, be brought back for action at the next SWG meeting.

## Item 3: National Cabinet on gender based violence (1 May)

### Item 3.A: Progress update

- Ms Padma Raman PSM, Executive Director Office for Women, **updated** the Board on outcomes from the May National Cabinet meeting and the progress of the Rapid Review into Prevention Approaches.
- Members **noted** updates from Secretaries on work being led in their portfolios following the May National Cabinet meeting.
- Members **agreed** that First Secretaries Group should be leveraged to maximise outcomes leading into the September National Cabinet meeting.
- Members **agreed** that a representative from the National Cabinet team within PM&C attend the next meeting to provide advice on processes and next steps.

### Item 3.B: Emerging priorities and next steps for <sup>s 47E(d)</sup> and September National Cabinet

- <sup>s 47E(d)</sup>
- Members **noted** the next steps leading to the 2024-25 <sup>s 47E(d)</sup> and the 6 September 2024 National Cabinet meeting.
- Members **noted** emerging priorities across Secretaries' portfolios.

## Item 4: Policy opportunities

### Item 4.A: <sup>s 47E(d)</sup>

- <sup>s 47E(d)</sup>, <sup>s 47C</sup>
- Members **agreed** for the IDC to progress policy proposal options for further consideration.

#### Item 4.B: Systems abuse

- Members **noted** that Commonwealth systems across a number of portfolios are vulnerable to exploitation by perpetrators of gender-based violence.
- Members **noted** the need for more immediate improvements to Commonwealth systems to be agreed leading into National Cabinet, and that a longer-term 'safety by design' approach across Commonwealth systems should be developed and applied where appropriate.
- Members **agreed** to return to the next meeting each with three to five options to address systems abuse within their agencies' portfolios.

#### Items 5 and 6: Other business and close

- Members **agreed** that a more detailed discussion on policy options and systems abuse would take place at the next SWG meeting.
- The Chair **noted** the next meeting of the Board will be held early – mid August 2024.

Megan Leahy | First Assistant Secretary, Office for Women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
s 22(1)(a)(ii) | [megan.leahy@pmc.gov.au](mailto:megan.leahy@pmc.gov.au)



# Secretaries Working Group on National Cabinet and Gender-Based Violence

Secretary's Office meeting brief

Purpose	Second meeting of the Secretaries Working Group on National Cabinet and Gender-Based Violence
Timing and venue	9:30AM – 10:30AM, Tuesday 13 August 2024, John Starling Room, One National Circuit
Attendees	<p>Professor Glyn Davis AC, Secretary, Prime Minister and Cabinet <b>(CHAIR)</b></p> <p>Ms Padma Raman, Executive Director, Office for Women, Prime Minister and Cabinet</p> <p>Mr David Mackey (proxy), A/g Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts</p> <p>Mr Blair Comley PSM, Secretary, Department of Health and Aged Care</p> <p>Ms Meg Brighton, Secretary, Department of Education</p> <p>Ms Stephanie Foster PSM, Secretary, Department of Home Affairs</p> <p>Mr Ray Griggs AO CDC, Secretary, Department of Social Services</p> <p>Ms Tania Rishniw (proxy), A/g Secretary, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations</p> <p>Ms Sam Reinhardt (proxy), Deputy Secretary, Fiscal Policy, Department of the Treasury</p> <p>Ms Katherine Jones PSM (proxy TBC), Secretary, Attorney-General's Department</p> <p>Ms Jenny Wilkinson PSM, Secretary, Department of Finance</p> <p>Ms Jody Broun (proxy TBC), Chief Executive Officer, National Indigenous Australians Agency</p>

## Our proposed objectives

- Seek Secretaries' endorsement of the updated Terms of Reference, Work Plan and minutes from Meeting 1 on 9 July 2024.

- Update Secretaries on the Responding to the National Crisis of Gender-Based Violence

s 47C

s 34(2)

s 47C

- s 47C

## Their objectives

- Secretaries will likely seek further visibility of how 1 May National Cabinet actions are progressing, to determine opportunities to align actions with work already underway or upcoming priorities within their portfolio.

- s 47C, s 47E(d)

- Secretaries will likely seek further understanding on the proposed high-level review of how systems can be weaponised to perpetrate gender-based violence.

## Sensitivities

s 47C

## Background

- Ending gender-based violence is a top priority for Government, which is why the Government held an urgent National Cabinet meeting on 1 May.
- A National Cabinet on gender-based violence was convened on 1 May to discuss improved government response to gender-based violence in response to the increased number of intimate partner homicides in 2024. National Cabinet agreed to four key actions.
  1. Strengthening prevention efforts through targeted, evidence-based approaches to build on the current universal approaches to ending gender-based violence. Led by the Commonwealth.
  2. Improving police responses to high risk and serial perpetrators of gender-based violence, including considering use of focused deterrence and fixated threat strategies, led by AGD through the Police Ministers Council and the Standing Council of Attorneys-General.
  3. Strengthening national consistency and driving best practice approaches across jurisdictions, including relating to risk assessment of high risk perpetrators and responses to sexual assault, led by the Council for the Australian Federation.
  4. Improving information sharing about perpetrators across systems and jurisdictions, led Commonwealth and Victoria, working through the Data and Digital Ministerial Committee.
- First Ministers also agreed on maintaining a focus on missing and murdered First Nations women and children, and the impact of domestic and family violence in First Nations communities.

Rochelle White  
Assistant Secretary  
Gender-Based Violence and Social Policy, Office for Women  
8 July 2024

Contact Officer:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director, Gender-Based Violence and Comm-state Relations,  
Office for Women



# Secretaries Working Group on Gender-Based Violence

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## Padma Raman – Annotated Agenda

Tuesday, 13 August 2024 | 9.30pm-10.30pm | John Starling Room | Ground Floor | ONC

### Handling note

- You (Padma Raman) will be invited by Secretary Davis to speak to Agenda Item 4A, Progress update on the 1 May National Cabinet on gender-based violence.

### Agenda Item 2 – Chair's Update

#### Overview of item

- The Chair (Secretary Davis) will lead this item.
- Members will be asked to endorse the Terms of Reference (ToRs), updated Work Plan, and 9 July 2024 meeting Minutes.

#### Recommended Action

- Endorse the ToRs, updated Work Plan, and 9 July 2024 meeting Minutes.

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## Agenda Item 3A – s 47E(d)

### Overview of item

- The Chair (Secretary Davis) will lead this item.

s 47E(d)

### Recommended Action

- Note the update.

s 47C

## Agenda Item 3B – Systems Abuse

### Overview of item

- The Chair (Secretary Davis) will lead this item.

s 47C , s 47E(d)

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### Recommended Action

- **Note** the update.
- **Encourage** Secretaries to bring forward any late ideas on the systems abuse that s 47C  
s 47C s 34(2) s 47C
- You may wish to outline OFW's role s 47E(d) – to coordinate the findings across agencies through a work plan to identify the most impactful options to address systems abuse.

## Agenda Item 4A – Progress Update

### Overview of item

- **You (Padma Raman) will lead this item.** You have approx. 5 min to talk and 5 min for questions or discussion.
- The purpose of this item is to provide an update on progress against the 1 May National Cabinet outcomes, including work across governments through relevant governance mechanisms.

### Recommended Action

- **Update** the group on the Agenda for the 6 September National Cabinet.
  - ❏ The agenda hasn't yet been finalised, but we anticipate there will be a paper for each National Cabinet tasking.
  - ❏ The Women and Women's Safety Ministerial Council (WWMSC) will also provide a paper that outlines the broader architecture of the National Plan and implementation efforts of jurisdictions.
    - s 47B(a) [REDACTED]
- **Update** the group on the Rapid Review:
  - ❏ Themes we anticipate the recommendations of the Expert Panel to be based around.
  - ❏ Emerging themes where additional effort is needed under National Plan.
  - ❏ Next steps for the Expert Panel, including timing of the report, noting you will provide an overview of recommendations at the next Secretaries Working Group meeting on 28 August 2024.
- **Ask** Secretary Griggs if he has further reflections on the Rapid Review.
  - s 47E(d) [REDACTED]
- PM&C is engaging with jurisdictions through FDG and FSG, to ensure an ambitious, targeted and evidence-based approach to actions across jurisdictions.
- Jurisdictions are exploring options to draft National Principles for Risk Assessment for National Cabinet endorsement on 6 September 2024, with further consultation (including with the family, domestic, and sexual violence sector), to be done over coming months before final Principles are agreed.
- **Invite** Secretaries to provide updates on any work they are leading, including:
  - ❏ Secretary Jenny Wilkinson (Finance) on information sharing
  - ❏ Secretary Katherine Jones (AGD) on police and justice responses
  - ❏ CEO Jody Broun (NIAA) on the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered First Nations women and children (due to report on 15 August).
- **Ask** Secretaries if they have any questions before moving onto the next agenda item.

### If needed - background on Expert Panel

- The Panel has identified the following emerging themes where additional effort is needed under the National Plan:
  - o The need to respond to children and young people's experiences of domestic, family and sexual violence.
  - o Engaging with men and boys in violence prevention, including meeting men where they are at.
  - o Reforming systems to better support victim survivors and hold perpetrators accountable.
  - o Regulating harmful industries like alcohol and other drugs, violent pornography, social media, and gambling.
  - The need to better understand pathways into perpetration to better understand opportunities for early intervention and ultimately prevention.
- The Panel are looking to strengthen efforts in prevention across all systems, not just the family, domestic and sexual violence system:
  - o This includes the need for multi-agency collaboration and information. The panel will likely recommend to government cross-agency collaboration, joint risk assessment and information sharing as strong prevention levers.
  - o This aligns with work underway following National Cabinet.
- Next steps:
  - o The Panel is on track to provide their report to the Commonwealth by 15 August. Broader release of the report will be a decision for the Commonwealth Government.
- There is strong community expectation that following the Rapid Review governments will take significant, substantial action to prevent gender-based violence, and that the report will be publicly available.
- s 34(3) [REDACTED]
- We understand the PMO is keen to share the report quickly with states and territories after the Commonwealth receives it..

s 47B(a)



## Agenda Item 4B – National Cabinet Preparation

### Overview of item

- Ms Lee Steel, Deputy Secretary, Social Policy Group will lead this item.
- In the first Secretaries Working Group meeting on 9 July 2024, members agreed for a representative from the National Cabinet team within PM&C to attend the next meeting to provide advice on processes and next steps, in the lead up to the 6 September National Cabinet.

### Recommended Action

- Note the update.

### If needed - background on drafting of the National Cabinet paper

- The next National Cabinet has been confirmed for 6 September 2024. The agenda is not yet cleared, but it is expected to predominantly focus on gender-based violence, with a paper on each action from National Cabinet.
  - Papers will be drafted by lead departments (AGD and Finance) – PM&C have requested these papers by 12pm 21 August 2024.
  - s 47B(a) [REDACTED]
  - PM&C (OFW) will write cover papers for all Commonwealth items, and lead overarching briefing for the Prime Minister.
  - s 47B(a) [REDACTED]

### Next meeting

28 August 2024 [TBC] | One National Circuit, Barton



# Chair's Brief

Secretaries Working Group – Tuesday, 13 August 2024

## Agenda Item 1 and 2 – Opening and Chair's update

### PM&C Recommended Action

- **Acknowledgement of Country**
- **Welcome** Secretaries to the second Secretaries Working Group on Gender-Based Violence (SWG) meeting.
- **Thank** Secretaries for their active engagement at the last SWG meeting.
- **Provide an overview of the intended outcomes** of this meeting – to ensure a coordinated and ambitious approach to achieve National Cabinet outcomes by:  
s 47C, s 47E(d)

- **Seek endorsement** of the updated Terms of Reference, Work Plan and 9 July 2024 Meeting Minutes.
- **Note** the endorsed Terms of Reference will be published on PM&C's website.

### Preferred outcome

- **Endorsement** of the Terms of Reference, Work Plan and 9 July 2024 Meeting Minutes.

### Key Issues, actions to resolve, sensitivities

- The SWG will drive whole-of-Government progress to achieve the 1 May National Cabinet on gender-based violence (National Cabinet) outcomes, and support the generation and testing of ideas for Government to bring to National Cabinet when it meets again on 6 September 2024.
- At the last SWG meeting, Members agreed the Terms of Reference (ToRs) should more strongly focus on the role of the SWG in supporting these upcoming National Cabinet deliberations.
  - Members agreed ToRs will be brought back for endorsement at this SWG meeting.
  - The ToRs have been updated with the input received from the Department of Social Services and the National Indigenous Australians Agency.

## Background

### *1 May National cabinet outcomes*

- On 1 May, National Cabinet met to discuss the national crisis of gender-based violence and agreed to four key actions, to report back to National Cabinet on 6 September 2024:
  1. *Strengthening prevention efforts* through targeted, evidence-based approaches to build on the current universal approaches to ending gender-based violence. Led by the Commonwealth.
  2. *Improving police responses* to high risk and serial perpetrators of gender-based violence, including considering use of focused deterrence and fixated threat strategies, led by AGD through the Police Ministers Council and the Standing Council of Attorneys-General.
  3. *Strengthening national consistency and driving best practice approaches* across jurisdictions, including relating to risk assessment of high risk perpetrators and responses to sexual assault, led by the Council for the Australian Federation.
  4. *Improving information sharing about perpetrators* across systems and jurisdictions, led Commonwealth and Victoria, working through the Data and Digital Ministerial Committee.
- First Ministers also agreed on maintaining a focus on missing and murdered First Nations women and children, and the impact of domestic and family violence in First Nations communities.

### *Collaboration cross government*

- PM&C is coordinating work on the actions arising from National Cabinet across all levels of government to ensure a consistent and collaborative approach in the lead up to the National Cabinet meeting on 6 September.
  - At the Commonwealth level, PM&C is convening a Band 2/Band 1 level Interdepartmental Committee on National Cabinet and ending gender-based violence (IDC) with the Department of Social Services. Membership of the IDC reflects that of this SWG.
- At the jurisdictional level, PM&C is working with state and territories through officials and ministerial forums, to ensure clear understanding of roles and responsibilities, and providing visibility on how the four outcomes will come together as a cohesive package.

Chair's Brief prepared by:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	8 August 2024
SES Clearance:	Rochelle White, Gender-Based Violence and Social Policy, Office for Women	
Deputy Secretary clearance	Padma Raman, Office for Women	
Consultation:	Nil	



## Agenda Item 3A – update

s 47E(d)

s 47C , s 47E(d)

- **Invite** Secretaries to discuss any feedback from ministerial offices.

### Preferred outcome

- **Note** the s 47E(d)
- **Agreement** to member agencies engaging openly with PM&C on s 47E(d)

s 47C

s 47C [Redacted]



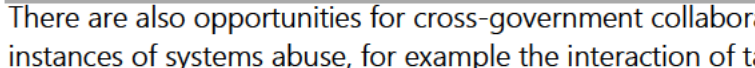

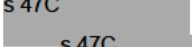



- The Commonwealth will need to ensure alignment with the *Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches* (Rapid Review) final report and the *Inquiry into missing and murdered First Nations women and children final report*, both due for release 15 August.

- s 47B(a) [Redacted]

Chair's Brief prepared by:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	8 August 2024
SES Clearance:	Rochelle White, Gender-Based Violence and Social Policy, Office for Women	
Deputy Secretary clearance	Padma Raman, Office for Women	
Consultation:	Nil	

## Agenda Item 3B – Systems Abuse

### PM&C Recommended Action

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  - PM&C has been working with agencies to identify actions to address systems abuse,   

  - There are also opportunities for cross-government collaboration to address specific instances of systems abuse, for example the interaction of tax and child support systems.
  - There is work already underway to explore the abuse of some Commonwealth systems in detail, for example the Inquiry into access to Family Violence Orders and the Inquiry into financial services regulatory framework in relation to financial abuse.
- **Ask Secretaries** if there are other actions that can be taken to address systems abuse   

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  - 
- **Note** PM&C will lead work, in consultation with other agencies, to develop a guidance framework to support the review process, and to ensure safety considerations are holistically integrated into the design and implementation of government systems and services from the outset of the policy process.

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### Preferred outcome

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## Key Issues, actions to resolve, sensitivities

s 47C



Chair's Brief prepared by:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	8 August 2024
SES Clearance:	Rochelle White, Gender-Based Violence and Social Policy, Office for Women	
Deputy Secretary clearance	Padma Raman, Office for Women	
Consultation:	Nil	

## Agenda Item 4A – Progress update

### PM&C Recommended Action

- **Invite** Ms Padma Raman, Executive Director, Office for Women to update members on progress against the 1 May National Cabinet outcomes, including work across governments and through new and existing governance mechanisms.

### Preferred outcome

- **Note** the progress update.

### Key Issues, actions to resolve, sensitivities

- The Prime Minister and First Ministers want to see ambitious, targeted and evidence-based work across jurisdictions to prevent gender-based violence, with tangible outcomes at 6 September National Cabinet.

s 47B(a)

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### Background

- Secretary Katherine Jones (AGD) is leading work for the Commonwealth on National Cabinet's tasking on "Improving police responses to high risk and serial perpetrators of gender-based violence, including considering use of focused deterrence and fixated threat strategies".
- Secretary Jenny Wilkinson (Finance) is leading work for the Commonwealth on National Cabinet's tasking on "Improving information sharing about perpetrators across systems and jurisdictions".
- Secretary Ray Griggs (DSS) is a co-convenor of the Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches, alongside Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner, Micaela Cronin, and Ms Raman. This work will respond to National Cabinet's tasking on "Strengthening prevention efforts through targeted, evidence-based approaches to build on the current universal approaches to ending gender-based violence".

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Chair's Brief prepared by:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	8 August 2024
SES Clearance:	Rochelle White, Gender-Based Violence and Social Policy, Office for Women	
Deputy Secretary clearance	Padma Raman, Office for Women	
Consultation:	Nil	

# Agenda Item 4B – National Cabinet Preparation

## PM&C Recommended Action

- Invite Ms Lee Steel, Deputy Secretary, Social Policy Group in PM&C to advise members on the processes in the lead up to the 6 September National Cabinet meeting, including how Secretaries can best prepare.

## Preferred outcome

- Note the advice on next steps.

## Key Issues, actions to resolve, sensitivities

- s 47C, s 47B(a)  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]
- Timelines are tight for papers from Ministerial Councils to be provided to PM&C in advance of National Cabinet. AGD and Finance have already flagged they may not meet PM&C's timeframes. We are negotiating realistic deadlines at officer level.

## Background

- In the first SWG meeting on 9 July 2024, members agreed for a representative from the National Cabinet team within PM&C to attend the next meeting to provide advice on processes and next steps, in the lead up to the 6 September National Cabinet.
- The next National Cabinet has been confirmed for 6 September 2024. The agenda is not yet cleared, but it is expected to predominantly focus on gender-based violence, with a paper on each action from National Cabinet.
  - Papers will be drafted by lead departments (AGD and Finance) – PM&C have requested these papers by 12pm 21 August 2024.
  - The Women and Women's Safety Ministerial Council (WWSMC) have also requested to draft a paper providing an overarching narrative of work underway to address gender-based violence, and outlining an ongoing role for their Council. OFW will draft this paper as Secretariat for WWSMC.
  - o PM&C (OFW) will write cover papers for all Commonwealth items, and lead overarching briefing for the Prime Minister.
  - s 47B(a)  
[Redacted]



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Chair's Brief prepared by:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	8 August 2024
SES Clearance:	Rochelle White, Gender-Based Violence and Social Policy, Office for Women	
Deputy Secretary clearance	Padma Raman, Office for Women	
Consultation:	National Cabinet team	



# Secretaries Working Group on Ending Gender-Based Violence

~~PROTECTED: CABINET~~

## Minutes

Tuesday, 13 August 2024 | 9:30am – 10:30 | John Starling Room, Ground Floor | ONC

**Chair:** Professor Glyn Davis AC | Secretary | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

### Item 1: Opening and Welcome to Country

- The Chair provided an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed members to the meeting.
- The Working Group noted the following members were apologies:
  - Dr Steven Kennedy PSM, Secretary for the Department of the Treasury - represented by Ms Sam Reinhardt
  - Ms Katherine Jones PSM, Secretary, Attorney-General's Department – represented by Ms Tamsyn Harvey
  - Ms Stephanie Foster PSM, Secretary, Department of Home Affairs - represented by Dr Emma Cassar PSM
  - Mr Tony Cook PSM, Secretary, Department of Education – represented by Ms Meg Brighton.

### Item 2: Chairs update and items for endorsement

#### Item 2.A: Chair's update

- The Chair acknowledged the significant work underway in the lead up to the s 47E(d) and the 6 September 2024 National Cabinet meeting, and noted the need to consider what follows these processes.

#### Item 2.B: items for endorsement

- The Working Group endorsed the updated Secretaries Working Group (SWG) Terms of Reference, Work Plan and 9 July 2024 meeting minutes.

~~PROTECTED: CABINET~~

### Item 3: Policy Priorities

#### Item 3 A: <sup>s 47E(d)</sup>

- Ms Padma Raman PSM, Executive Director Office for Women **updated** members on the <sup>s 47E(d)</sup>
- Ms Raman **thanked** members for their engagement in developing the <sup>s 47E(d)</sup>
- <sup>s 47C</sup>
- Members **noted** that PM&C will work through the Interdepartmental Committee on National Cabinet and Ending Gender-Based Violence (IDC) <sup>s 47C</sup>

#### Item 3.B: Systems abuse

- Members **noted** the Systems Abuse paper, including the need to carefully consider unintended consequences and have clarity on the particular harms that are occurring.
- Members **discussed** other systems that engage with victim-survivors directly, such as employment services and the need to explore opportunities for how outsourced models could prevent systems abuse.
- Members **agreed** to raise the Commonwealth's work to address systems with states and territories, including through First Secretaries Group noting there may be work underway across jurisdictions, <sup>s 47B(a)</sup>

### Item 4: 6 September National Cabinet

- Ms Raman and Secretary Griggs AO CSC **updated** members on the Rapid Review into Prevention Approaches, noting that the anticipated recommendations align well with priorities from the 1 May National Cabinet and building on the National Plan.
  - The Rapid Review into Prevention Approaches panel will provide an executive summary and recommendations to Government on Thursday 15 August.

- Regarding the 6 September National Cabinet meeting, members **noted**:
  - s 47B(a) [REDACTED]
  - The work of agencies through relevant ministerial councils for National Cabinet, including the Data and Digital Minister Meeting, Standing Council of Attorneys-General, Police Ministers Council (PMC) and the Women and Women's Safety Ministers Council (WWSMC).
  - WWSMC will submit a paper to National Cabinet on the National Plan.
- Ms Lee Steel, First Assistant Secretary, Intergovernmental Relations and Reform Division, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, **provided an overview** of National Cabinet preparation processes.

## Item 5: Other Business

## Item 6: Close

- The Chair closed the meeting and noted the next meeting of the Secretaries Working Group, scheduled for 28 August 2024, will need to consider next steps following National Cabinet.

Rochelle White | Assistant Secretary, Gender-Based Violence and Social Policy Branch, Office for Women Division, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet | s 22(1)(a)(ii) [REDACTED] | [rochelle.white@pmc.gov.au](mailto:rochelle.white@pmc.gov.au)