



South



Australia

(TO WIT)

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HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE FRANCES JENNIFER ADAMSON, Companion of the Order of Australia, Governor in and over the State of South Australia:

TO

NATASHA JESSICA STOTT DESPOJA AO

**Greeting:**

I, the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council and under the *Royal Commissions Act 1917*, DO HEREBY APPOINT YOU to be a Commissioner and require and authorise you to inquire into:

- a. How South Australia can facilitate widespread change in the underlying social drivers of domestic, family and sexual violence by addressing the attitudes and systems that drive all forms of domestic, family and sexual violence, and particularly violence against women and children, to stop it before it starts (**prevention**).
- b. How South Australia can improve effective early intervention through identification and support of individuals who are at high risk of experiencing or perpetrating domestic, family and sexual violence and preventing the reoccurrence of such violence (**early intervention**).
- c. How South Australia can ensure best practice response to family, domestic and sexual violence in South Australia through the provision of services and supports, such as crisis support, health services, police intervention and a trauma-informed justice system that will hold people who use violence to account, to intervene in and address existing violence, and support victim-survivors experiencing violence (**response**).
- d. How South Australia can embed an approach that supports recovery and healing within South Australia through reducing the risk of re-traumatisation, and supporting victim-survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence (including children) to be safe and healthy to be able to recover from trauma and the physical, mental, emotional, and economic impacts of violence (**recovery and healing**).

- e. How government agencies, non-government organisations and communities can better integrate and coordinate efforts across the spectrum of prevention, early intervention, response and recovery, including through whole of system approaches and information and data sharing systems.

AND I direct you to make any recommendations arising out of your inquiry that you consider appropriate, including recommendations about policy, legislative, administrative or structural reforms to be made, having regard to the need for practical, immediate and/or medium-term actions, as well as a longer-term blueprint for ending family, domestic and sexual violence in South Australia.

AND, without limiting the scope of your inquiry or the scope of any recommendations arising out of your inquiry that you may consider appropriate, I direct you, for the purposes of your inquiry and recommendations, to have regard to the following matters:

- a. Recognising the rights of children as victim survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence
- b. Ensuring an approach that appropriately balances the views and experiences of victim survivors and perpetrators and includes the experience of children
- c. The lessons from implementing previous innovations in family, domestic and sexual violence response in South Australia, such as Multi Agency Protection Service
- d. The role of South Australia's social data assets in informing system design and monitoring
- e. The importance of workforce capacity in the sector
- f. Consideration of economic wellbeing, given the poverty that victim survivors often experience
- g. The provision of services across rural, regional, and remote South Australia
- h. The extensive work undertaken in other jurisdictions in relation to optimal system design to support family, domestic and sexual violence
- i. The views and experiences of:
  - Victim survivors and those with lived experience of family, domestic and sexual violence
  - First nations communities
  - Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities
  - LGBTIQ+ community
  - People living with a disability
  - Children and young people
  - Older South Australians
  - People living in regional and remote communities

- Experts in family, domestic and sexual violence
- Service providers in family, domestic and sexual violence
- Leaders in the in family, domestic and sexual violence sector including advocates
- Medical professionals including mental health providers
- Police and legal sector, including those involved in court administration and victim support.

AND in undertaking this inquiry RECOGNISING the following matters:

- a. the unacceptable rate of family, domestic and sexual violence in South Australia with a strong focus on the rates of violence experienced by Aboriginal women and children and the over-representation of Aboriginal people in current service systems
- b. the complex causes of family, domestic and sexual violence, including gender inequality and community attitudes
- c. the profound impacts of family, domestic and sexual violence on victim survivors, including physical, psychological, economic and emotional consequences
- d. women and children experiencing intersectional barriers are more likely to experience family, domestic and sexual violence
- e. that the response to family, domestic and sexual violence is complex and will require coordination across government and the community, including courts, police, correctional services, legal services, housing, child protection and family services, schools, health and non-government organisations
- f. that preventing and responding to family, domestic and sexual violence is a shared responsibility across government, media, business, community organisations, communities, families and individuals
- g. that while anyone can be a victim of family, domestic and sexual violence, the overwhelming majority of victims are women and children
- h. that while anyone can perpetrate family, domestic and sexual violence and have violence perpetrated upon them, the overwhelming majority of perpetrators are men
- i. that men and positive male role models can be an important part of solutions to reduce and prevent family, domestic and sexual violence.

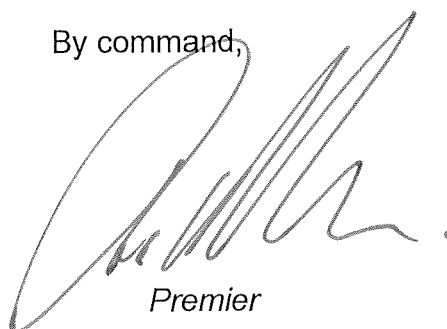
AND I:

1. Require you to begin your inquiry on 1 July 2024.
2. Require you to conduct your inquiry as you consider appropriate, having regard to adopting informal and flexible procedures where desirable.

3. Require you to make your inquiry as expeditiously as possible, without unnecessary cost or delay.
4. Require you to submit your final report by 1 July 2025. The provision of interim reports, and confidential reports with information not for public release, is at the discretion of the Commissioner.

**GIVEN** under my hand and the Public Seal of South Australia, at Adelaide this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

By command,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Dutton', written in a cursive style.

*Premier*

Recorded in Register of Commissions,  
Letters Patent, Etc., Vol. XXIX

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Amy Barnes', written in a cursive style.

*Clerk of Executive Council*

GOD SAVE THE KING!