



Policy, Reform and Legislative Branch
Department of Communities and Justice
31 Belvoir St
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

Email: Matthew.Karpin@justice.nsw.gov.au
Alexandra.Kerr@justice.nsw.gov.au

Tuesday 4 January 2022

Dear Matthew and Alexandra,

Re: Domestic Violence NSW feedback on the draft bill to enact reforms of sentencing practices for historical offences.

Please accept this letter as Domestic Violence NSW's submission in response to the Department of Communities and Justice request for feedback on the draft bill to enact reforms to extend the operation of [s 25AA\(1\)](#) of the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999* to all offences.

Domestic Violence NSW is the peak body for specialist domestic and family violence services in NSW, providing a representative and advocacy function for over 125 specialist domestic and family violence services and the women, families and communities they support.

Our member services include crisis and refuge services, transitional accommodation and community housing providers, family support services, Aboriginal controlled organisations, specialist Culturally and Linguistically Diverse organisations, specialist homelessness service providers, men's behaviour change programs and networks, community organisations working with high-risk communities, specialist women's legal support services, women and children's support services and Safe at Home programs.

Domestic Violence NSW acknowledges that we work on Aboriginal land and pay respect to elders past, present and emerging. We also acknowledge the adverse impacts of colonisation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the high rates of violence perpetrated against Aboriginal women and their children.


Domestic Violence NSW welcomes the proposed amendments that extend the operation of [s 25AA\(1\)](#) of the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999* to all offences. As stated by Judge Berman¹, "we now know that sentences imposed for sexual assault matters in the past were at times woefully

¹ R v Gregory Richardson, cited in NSW Government. (2021). *Review of sentencing practices for historical offences*. P. 14.

inadequate”, and it is “strange” that sentencing amendments have previously only been enacted in cases of child sexual assault. Domestic Violence NSW suggests that these amendments are a logical progression of the work already completed.

Domestic Violence NSW agrees to our submission being made public. If you would like to discuss any aspect of this submission, please contact me on (02) 9698 9777 or at ceo@dvnsw.org.au.

Yours sincerely



Delia Donovan
CEO, Domestic Violence NSW