



Women's Legal Services Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

Cash, Shorten and Di Natale receive petition from Rosie Batty on family law system reform

This morning in Melbourne the federal minister for women, Senator Michaelia Cash, shadow minister for women, Senator Clare Moore and the leader of the Australian Greens, Senator Richard Di Natale, were delivered a petition by Rosie Batty calling for reform the family law system with over 21,000 signatures from across Australia.

Rose Batty, former Australian of the year, asked the leaders to support a plan to put safety first in family law. The Chief Justice of the Family Court Ms Diana Bryant AO, and Ms Emma Smallwood, national coordinator for, Women's Legal Services Australia, also spoke in support of the petition.

The petition was created by The Luke Batty Foundation's Never Alone campaign, and urges the leaders to adopt a five step plan released by Women's Legal Services Australia (WLSA) to prioritise safety in the family law system:

1. Develop a specialist response for domestic violence cases
2. Support those who are most at risk of future violence
3. Intervene early and provide effective legal help
4. Support women and children to financially recover
5. Strengthen understanding of all family law professionals on family violence

WLSA is the national network of women's legal services around Australia that, specialise in legal issues arising from family violence and relationship breakdown. Emma Smallwood, national coordinator for, Women's Legal Services Australia encourages all political parties to engage with the plan.

"Women's legal services work on the front line of family law across Australia, and this plan has been created based on our clients' experiences in the system. We look forward to working with government, the courts and the legal community to make our system safe, just and efficient for all families in Australia", said Ms Smallwood.

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Visit our campaign website: <https://safetyinfamilylaw.org.au/thesolutions/>