

From: Jo Green
To: [SPSC SPSC](#)
Subject: Submission to the Domestic and Family Violence Amendment (Information Sharing) Bill 2017
Date: Wednesday, 24 January 2018 4:51:25 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good afternoon,

NPY Women's Council's Domestic and Family Violence Service has been in operation since 1994 and supports Aboriginal women in the southern communities in the Northern Territory who experience domestic and family violence. As a Service we welcome the proposed changes to the Domestic and Family Violence Service to increase the capacity for information sharing between police and agencies such as ours. NPY Women's Council has had a long relationship of collaboration and support with the NT Police to increase the capacity for our service to offer protection to our clients.

It is hoped that the changes are able to foster an environment whereby police are able to quickly advise domestic violence services when there has been police attendance at a domestic incident. In the experience of this service, not only does this ensure that the appropriate social and emotional support is able to be offered in a timely manner, but also that women are supported to continue to interact with the criminal justice system, beyond the initial police response. Under the current legislative environment, this is dependent on women providing express consent and SupportLink being used as the mechanism to refer. In the experience of this service, it is very, very rare for our clients to consent to a referral when being asked by police. Aboriginal women are much more likely to consent to assistance if approached by NPY Women's Council staff.

Many of the women we work with visit urban areas (including from interstate communities) such as Alice Springs for short periods of time and NPY Women's Council has multiple case studies of women being assaulted by their partners and not being notified until assistance is needed by the Witness Assistance Service to locate them for trial. In these cases, valuable opportunities are missed, and during this time, they may have gone back to community where they can be subject to family and partner pressure to maintain the relationship and can also be subject to further violence – both physical and non physical. If there is no resulting criminal matter or no resulting trial, then opportunities of early intervention and support are missed entirely – often until the situation becomes much more critical.

If any further information can be of assistance to this process, please don't hesitate to contact me either by email, or by calling 8958 2374.

Kind regards,

Jo Green

Assistant Manager

Domestic and Family Violence Service

Atunypa Wira Minyma Uwankaraku - Good Protection for All Women

Please note I work in the office Monday-Thursday. I can be contacted via email on Fridays.

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NPY WOMEN'S COUNCIL

Patron Professor Marcia Langton AM

Our Guiding Principles – respect each other and follow the law straight - conciliatory - peaceful and calm - kind-hearted - united – strong

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