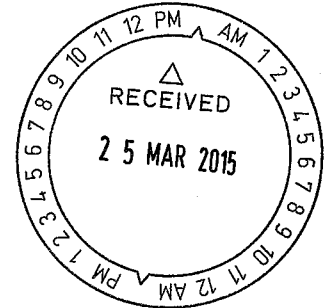




ATTORNEY GENERAL; MINISTER FOR COMMERCE

Our Ref: 44-15166



Hon Simon O'Brien MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr O'Brien

PETITION NO. 72 – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FUNDING

Thank you for your letter dated 24 February 2015 seeking my comments on the terms of a petition on domestic violence funding and the submissions from the principal petitioners and the tabling Member.

As issues regarding family violence refuge funding and accommodation are within the portfolio of the Hon. Helen Morton MLC, Minister for Child Protection, I am unable to provide any comment on this.

However, I can advise that the State Government is committed to improving outcomes for victims of family violence. I refer to the recent announcement by the Government to introduce Family Violence Restraining Orders which are designed to reduce the onus on the victim to provide evidence of acts of abuse. For instance, the new laws will require courts to consider information from police and other agencies such as the Department for Child Protection and Family Support in assessing a person's risk.

The Department of the Attorney General is also undertaking extensive policy work to respond to the Law Reform Commission of WA's *Enhancing Family and Domestic Violence Laws: Final Report*, and on how family violence is tackled in the courts.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Yours sincerely

Hon. Michael Mischin MLC
ATTORNEY GENERAL; MINISTER FOR COMMERCE

25 MAR 2015