



Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash
Attorney-General
Minister for Industrial Relations
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate

Reference: MC21-042749

Ms Nicki Petrou
Director
NT Working Women's Centre
PO Box 403
DARWIN NT 0801

By email:

Dear Ms Petrou

Thank you for your letter of 4 August 2021 regarding funding for Working Women's Centres.

As you are aware, in the Roadmap for Respect, in response to recommendation 49 of the Respect@Work Report, the Australian Government committed to engaging with states and territories on funding for Working Women's Centres. This commitment recognises that recommendation 49 is directed at all Australian Governments – Federal, States and Territories.

As mentioned in your letter, recommendation 49 of the Respect@Work Report was considered at a Meeting of Attorneys-General (MAG) on 9 June 2021. MAG tasked Commonwealth and state and territory officials to review the scope of services provided by Working Women's Centres and like services, and to consider the feasibility of funding for services including under the National Legal Assistance Partnership. Consultation between the Commonwealth and the states and territories is ongoing.

The Australian Government announced in the 2021-22 Federal Budget that it would provide additional funding over four years for specialist legal assistance for people with workplace and discrimination law issues, in response to Recommendation 53 of the Respect@Work Report.

The Australian Government has committed \$43.897 million, which will be delivered through the National Legal Assistance Partnership 2020-25. It will be a matter for states and territories to determine how to allocate this funding to legal assistance providers in their jurisdictions. Working Women's Centres may wish to make representations to the relevant state and territory governments in relation to that funding.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash

50 / 08 / 2021