

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Government Response to Women's Safety Sector

Senator: Siewert

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Question:

The women's safety sector has called for social security and Medicare benefits to be available to TPV holders, funding for specialist legal advice services, better access to temporary, crisis, social and public housing, and more interpreter services for frontline FDV services. What has the government done to respond to those calls?

Answer:

Commonwealth, state and territory governments are currently working together to address issues faced by women on temporary visas experiencing domestic and family violence. This is a complex issue that requires the collaboration of all levels of government.

The Australian Government has allocated \$130 million to states and territories under the National Partnership on COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Responses. This funding will help ensure the safety of women and children experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, including women on temporary visas.