



THE SENATE

## LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS REFERENCES COMMITTEE

### MEDIA RELEASE

4 August 2022

#### **Senate committee will examine missing and murdered First Nations women and children**

On 25 November 2021, the Senate of the 46<sup>th</sup> Parliament referred an inquiry into missing and murdered First Nations women and children to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee for report by 30 June 2022. However, the prorogation of the Parliament on 11 April 2022 prevented the committee from progressing the inquiry.

On 4 August 2022, the Senate re-referred this matter for inquiry and report by 31 July 2023.

This inquiry raises challenging and important issues. It is significant to the committee that the inquiry is its first order of business in the 47<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

The committee will consider, among other issues:

- the number of First Nations women and children who are missing and murdered;
- current and historical practices to investigating the deaths and missing person reports of First Nations women and children;
- systemic causes of all forms of violence against First Nations women and children;
- the policies, practices, and services that have been effective in reducing violence and increasing safety of First Nations women and children;
- the identification of effective actions that can be taken to remove systematic causes of violence against First Nations women and children; and
- ways in which missing and murdered First Nations women and children and their families can be honoured and commemorated.

The committee is giving careful consideration to the conduct of the inquiry and its next steps. In due course, the committee intends to call for submissions and hold public hearings.

Further information about the inquiry, including the full terms of reference, will be available at

[https://www.apf.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Legal\\_and\\_Constitutional\\_Affairs](https://www.apf.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Legal_and_Constitutional_Affairs).

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For media comment, contact the office of Senator Paul Scarr, Committee Chair, on 02 6277 3712. For information about the inquiry process, please contact the committee secretariat on 02 6277 3560 or email [legcon.sen@apf.gov.au](mailto:legcon.sen@apf.gov.au).

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