

11 May 2018

Australian Law Reform Commission
GPO Box 3708
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Committee

Endorsement of Women's Legal Services Australia submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission's review of the family law system.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important review of the family law system.

White Ribbon Australia focuses on the prevention of men's violence against women. Our organisational purpose is 'engaging men to make women's safety a man's issue too'. We want all men to understand and act on their role in the prevention of men's violence against women.

To achieve this, we offer a range of violence prevention initiatives in schools, workplaces, online and through grassroots community events. These activities highlight the positive role men play in preventing men's violence against women and support them to be part of this social change.

Legal responses to family violence are critical to prevention efforts. The legal system can hold perpetrators to account and support victims. This can deter potential perpetrators of violence, prevent reoffending and encourage women experiencing violence to seek help.

White Ribbon Australia endorses the submission made to this review by the Women's Legal Service Australia. The submission makes a number of recommendations that will support women's safety and improve the accessibility of the family law system for women experiencing financial insecurity, women with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and culturally and linguistically diverse women.

Kind regards

Libby Davies

CEO