



Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services
Minister for Women
Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence
Minister for Corrections
Minister for Gaming Reform

Member for Murrumbidgee

Mr Tom Duncan
Legislative Assembly Clerk
ACT Legislative Assembly
LApetitions@parliament.act.gov.au

Our ref: CSI-25/326

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter of 19 March 2025, regarding petition PET-012-25. The petition requests the Assembly call on the Government to provide funding to community organisation Fearless Woman in the 2025-26 Budget as outlined in Fearless Women's 2025-26 Community Budget Submission.

Fearless Women provided the ACT Government with a 2025-26 Community Budget Submission seeking \$500,000 for the Fearless Women Empowerment Program (education, mentoring, individual and small group counselling) in 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28, with CPI applied in 2026-27 and 2027-28.

Pursuant to Standing Order 100, this letter constitutes my response.

The ACT Government recognises the importance of supporting the mental health of ACT women and girls. The ACT Government notes the evidence showing that girls and young women in the ACT feel overwhelmed, stressed, and uncertain about their future. The ACT Government acknowledges the importance of programs that enable young women and girls to better understand who they are, what they can be and how they can thrive. These include programs like those offered by Fearless Women.

The 2024-25 Budget provided Fearless Women with \$158,000 to deliver a counselling service for young women aged 10 to 25 years for one year.

The 2025-26 Budget will continue ACT Government support for Fearless Women and will provide \$380,000 in 2025-26 and 2026-27, with indexation applied in 2026-27.

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This commitment to fund Fearless Women further supports the intention of work to deliver *Third Action Plan 2023-2026* actions under the *ACT Women's Plan 2016-2026* to respond to women and girls' mental health needs.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Paterson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA
Minister for Women