



**Australian Government**  
**Attorney-General's Department**

MC25-001387

7 March 2025

Ms Suzanne Burke  
Chair, Alliance for Forgotten Australians

By email: [admin@forgottenaustralians.org.au](mailto:admin@forgottenaustralians.org.au)

Ms Catherine Humphrey

Dear Ms Burke and Ms Humphrey

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 February 2025 to the Attorney-General, the Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP, regarding the High Court of Australia's decision in *Bird v DP (a pseudonym)* [2024] HCA 41 (*Bird*). As the Head of the National Office for Child Safety (National Office) within the Attorney-General's Department, I am replying to you on the Attorney-General's behalf.

I acknowledge the decision raises significant concerns for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse. I want to assure you that the Attorney-General is working closely with his state and territory colleagues to consider the *Bird* decision. The Attorney-General discussed the judgment with his state and territory colleagues at the Standing Council of Attorneys-General on 21 February 2025 – a forum where Attorneys-General from all jurisdictions convene. The Standing Council noted the implications of the High Court decision and agreed to work together to further consider the impacts of the High Court decision and potential reform options.

The Australian Government remains committed to preventing and responding to child sexual abuse and improving access to justice for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse. The National Office is working in close partnership with states and territories and the community to reduce the prevalence and impact of child sexual abuse through the [National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2030](#) (National Strategy). You can find out more about the National Office's work under the National Strategy at [www.childsafety.gov.au](http://www.childsafety.gov.au).

Thank you again for writing. I hope this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lauren Barons', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Lauren Barons**  
Head of the National Office for Child Safety  
Attorney-General's Department