



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Our ref: CLC/DHrg:1567215

24 July 2018

The Hon. Mark Speakman SC MP
Attorney General
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Attorney General,

Domestic violence pre-sentence intervention program

We write to you in relation to domestic violence intervention programs.

The Law Society is represented on the Department of Justice Domestic Violence Reforms Consultation Group. At a recent meeting Women NSW reported that there are more behaviour change programs coming online in western and northern NSW, expanding on the existing concentration of programs on the eastern seaboard, which we support.

What we are particularly interested in was the suggestion from Women NSW that within a few years the system will be mature enough to move towards a MERIT style pre-sentence intervention program.

The Law Society would strongly support further consideration of such an initiative. We consider that an appropriately facilitated therapeutic program that is recommended by experts in the field could be a worthwhile endeavour.

We would welcome further discussions about how such a program could be piloted and its effectiveness evaluated.

Yours sincerely,

Doug Humphreys OAM
President

CC Mr Cappie-Wood, Secretary, Department of Justice