*Here is a draft letter you can use to send to your MP and local senators. Feel free to adapt this as you wish. We have included the link for tracking down email addresses. Please include your full name and address as this will ensure the letter is read and answered.*

**DRAFT LETTER TO YOUR MP**

To find your MP and local senators click on this [LINK](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members)

(Name)

(Title)

Subject: **They don’t speak for me!**

Dear (Name)

I am writing as the mother of a son, and I and most people I know are concerned about recent crusade about our alleged woman-hating culture. It is obvious to everyone that this is an orchestrated campaign to damage the government and ensure more funding for the many ideologically driven agendas which are distorting proper evidence-based approaches to critical social issues like domestic violence, family law and suicide prevention.

More specifically the recent Canberra rape allegations are now being used to denigrate our criminal justice system in order to promote alternate forms of “justice,” such as independent inquiries, which would ensure more rape convictions by undermining the due process rights of accused men and making decisions using a lower standard of proof.

I urge you and your fellow MPs to ignore the noisy but small minority promoting this campaign and listen to ordinary Australians who don’t want to see further moves to advantage women *at the expense of men*.

Like me, most people in our society have men in their lives they love and care about and I am writing to ask you to ensure both men and women receive fair treatment by all our government departments and by society at large. I believe your government is alienating ordinary Australians who object to you pandering to zealots promoting divisive policies founded on identity politics not founded in the rule of law.

In particular, I draw your attention to the following areas where the current campaign is deliberately promoting myths and misrepresenting statistics to promote their anti-male agenda. I urge you to correct this misinformation:

* **Australia is unsafe for women**. The reality is that men have far more reason to feel unsafe on the streets at night than women do. The latest [AIHW](https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/injury/assault-and-homicide#Trends) figures on show male rates of assault injury hospitalisations are almost twice that of females - 64% (14,085 cases) compared to 36% for females (7,972 cases). This is comparatively a very safe country and overall violence rates are on the decrease. The ABS’s [Personal Safety Survey](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/personal-safety-australia/latest-release#key-statistics) shows a drop in experiences of physical violence, falling from 7.5% in 2005 to 4.5% in 2016.
* **Our justice system is failing rape victims**. Contrary to the misinformation being promoted, our conviction levels for sexual assault have never been higher. Latest figures from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics ([BOSCAR](https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar_pages/Sexual-assault.aspx)) show 66% of sexual assault cases result in a guilty verdict. BOSCARdatashows a huge increase in rape convictions, which almost doubled between 1995 and 2020, up from 579 to 1006 - a 14% increase in conviction rates. Almost 66% of people convicted of sexual assault in NSW go to jail, compared to about 10 per cent of people convicted of other crimes.
* **Women don’t report rape because they don’t trust the justice system.** BOSCAR [**investigated**](https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar_media_releases/2009/bocsar_mr_cjb125.aspx) why fewer cases were going through to trial and found the major reason was there had been an increase in cases where the victim knew the offender and didn’t want to give evidence against the accused person.

When activists quote surveys alleging huge numbers of women are experiencing sexual assault in Australia, this is what they are *not* telling us:

* We’re not just talking about what most people think of as ‘rape” but any sexual act involving force or coercion, including *attempts* to force someone into sexual activity.([PSS](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/personal-safety-australia/latest-release#experience-of-sexual-harassment))
* Many of these cases involve young women - over a quarter (29%) of female victims were aged between 15 and 19 years. ([Recorded Crimes](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/recorded-crime-victims/latest-release))
* Most victims (87%) knew their offender – so chances are many are date rape cases revolving around the murky complexities of consent. ([Recorded Crimes](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/recorded-crime-victims/latest-release))
* Half the women believed that alcohol or another substance contributed to the sexual assault. ([AIHW](https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/0375553f-0395-46cc-9574-d54c74fa601a/aihw-fdv-5.pdf.aspx?inline=true))
* Only 13 % reported the assault to police. The major reasons for not doing so included a third who felt they could deal with it themselves, and another third who did not regard it as a serious offence. ([AIHW](https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/0375553f-0395-46cc-9574-d54c74fa601a/aihw-fdv-5.pdf.aspx?inline=true))
* Almost half the women didn’t see what happened to them as a crime. Twenty two percent saw it as something that just happens. [(AIHW)](https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/0375553f-0395-46cc-9574-d54c74fa601a/aihw-fdv-5.pdf.aspx?inline=true)

It is not in the interests of these young women dealing with these complexes he-said, she-said date rape cases to be pushed by zealots into reporting to the police, only to find their cases fall apart in court due to lack of proper evidence. The government should be promoting alternate approaches, like restorative justice, to bring the accuser and the accused together to discuss what happened and find a way of healing or reparations.

You owe it to the young men involved in such cases not to water down their rights. Men vote too.

Adding to the current difficulties in these cases are messages being given in consent courses being taught in schools and universities, teaching women they cannot give consent if they have been drinking and they have a right to withdraw consent after the event. By funding such courses, our governments are responsible for setting up scenarios which encourage young women to make accusations which can ruin the lives of young men.

Finally, I object to the suggestion that quotas for women in parliament would address the current problems. Brittany Higgins accused two female ministers of treating her unsympathetically so clearly gender is no protection from such criticism.

Yours sincerely,

*(Please include your full name and address)*