

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FORUM

The Minister assisting the Prime Minister on Women Affairs, Senator Jocelyn Newman, called a Domestic Violence Forum in Canberra on the 23–24 September. Kate Funder, AIFS Principal Research Fellow, represented the Australian Institute of Family Studies at the Forum which was attended by Commonwealth, State and Territory representatives, service providers and representatives from non-government organisations – about 150 in all. The forum was chaired by Kathleen

Townsend, Head of the Department at the Office of the Status of Women. Dr Di Herriot, who is in charge of work on domestic violence in that Office was involved in the organising.

Recommendations put forward by the Forum will be considered at the Domestic Violence Summit in June 1997 which will be attended by Ministers – Commonwealth, State and Territory – and by relevant Heads of Departments. Recommendations from the Summit will be considered by the Council of

Australian Governments and the Standing Committee of Attorney Generals.

The Forum was structured around keynote speakers and working groups divided into four streams to consider: policy development for the provision of services to victims of domestic violence; services to perpetrators; legislative reforms; and the directions of research and prevention programs. Proceedings of the Forum will be made available in the near future.