

The Hon. Lizzie Blandthorn
Minister for Children and for Disability
Level 22 50 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Minister

Subject: **Victorian authorities fail 12-year-old autistic girl and victim**

Recently, the media published numerous reports that a 12-year-old autistic girl in Melbourne “murdered” a 37-year-old woman. Those reports include:

- [Twelve-year-old girl charged with murder over stabbing of woman in Melbourne's inner west](#) (ABC News, 16/11) - this is a very brief report
- [Girl, 12, charged with Melbourne stabbing murder should not stay in juvenile detention, lawyer says](#) (The Guardian 17/11)
- [Girl, 12, faces court charged with murder over woman's death in Footscray](#) (The Age, 17/11)
- [Girl, 12, faces court after woman fatally stabbed in Melbourne](#) (9News, 17/11)
- [Young girl faces court after fatal Footscray stabbing](#) (Canberra Times, 17/11)
- [Footscray locals say 12-year-old girl who was charged with murder was failed by authorities](#) (ABC News, 20/11)
- [A 12-year-old girl charged with murder was 'prostituted out' for as long as a year but police ignored multiple pleas for help](#) (News.com.au, 21/11)

[It emerged](#) that concerned citizens had reported the girl to multiple authorities many times ... but the authorities did little or nothing to help her.

Agencies like police, child protection, education and the Senior Practitioner are state government responsibilities. They fail autistic children regularly.

They certainly failed this girl ... and the person she allegedly killed.

A4 expects you and your government will do everything possible to prevent disability advocates from finding out how all this happened.

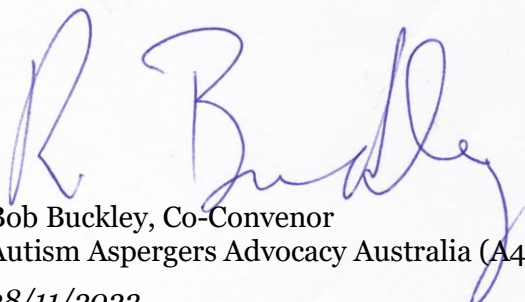
However, we have several questions that we expect will be answered (and please note [A4's policy on unanswered questions](#)).

1. What steps is the Victorian Government doing to learn from these tragic events?
 - a. What were the failures? Which agencies failed - how and why?
 - b. What is being done to minimise the risk of similar events involving autistic Victorians in future?
2. How did the girl who is the subject of these reports benefit from Victoria's Autism Plan (see [here](#) or [here](#))?

3. Will you assure the disability advocacy sector that credible steps have been taken to address the full complement of systemic and individual failures exposed by these events? If so, how?

A4 would appreciate your response to these questions within two weeks.

Yours sincerely



Bob Buckley, Co-Convenor
Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia (A4)
28/11/2023