

28 May 2026

The Hon Michael Daley MP
NSW Attorney-General
Parliament of New South Wales
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Attorney-General Daley,

**Re: NSW's early childhood education and care sector gutted by delays
for the justice of the late Molly Ticehurst's murderer and Australia's worst paedophile**

The Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) NSW is the peak body for over 1,600 privately-owned predominantly small to medium-sized family-owned and operated businesses who provide early childhood education and care services in New South Wales. ACA NSW members employ over 25,000 employees and are committed to providing excellence in early childhood education and care for the more than 125,000 children and their families.

ACA NSW members and our sector are gutted by the delay in the sentencing of Molly Ticehurst's murderer, originally scheduled for 1-2 June 2026 at Orange Local Court. Molly was brutally and horrifically killed in April 2024. Her death also became the catalyst exposed not only NSW's but also Australia's limitations in preventing domestic violence.

Despite that murderer's guilty plea on 14 November 2025 (ie 19 months after Molly's death), the fact that:

- the defence's forensic psychiatrist's finding of the murderer being (apparently) affected by depressive illness at the time of the murder; and
- the murderer refusing to be assessed by the Crown prosecutor's psychiatrist

... are ought not to be reasons for more delay of justice for Molly's murder.

This delay at least until 7 September 2026 continues the pain, suffering and extends any possible closure and recovery from grief and trauma to Molly's family, loved ones and her employer and colleagues at Forbes Learning Ladder.

Worse, it reinforces the perception that the system still continues to fail domestic violence victims.

You will also be aware that ACA NSW has also written to you and the NSW Government about Operation Tenterfield announced in August 2023. And notwithstanding today's Queensland Court of Appeals reserving its decision, the perception of justice being delayed (ie in his extradition to NSW to stand trial for 180 charges of offences against 23 NSW children) is also of significant concern.

Justice delayed is justice denied.

ACA NSW is arguably the first peak body to publicly support the NSW Government's reforms of NSW's early childhood education and care sector. We are recorded in Hansard for stating that the reforms are "*...not complete by any chance, but it is a good start and more needs to occur—still more.*"

ACA New South Wales

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As such, protecting our children and our early childhood educators and teachers have always been paramount to us. Therefore, our sector and the NSW Government must ensure we are in harmony with each other.

I will contact your Ministerial Office to discuss this further with you.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,



Chiang Lim
CEO

encl "Sentencing of Daniel Billings for murder of Molly Ticehurst delayed", ABC News (22 May 2026)
Summary of charges vs actual convictions following Operation Tenterfield

cc The Hon Chris Minns MP, NSW Premier
The Hon Prue Car MP, NSW Deputy Premier & Minister for Education and Early Learning
The Hon Yasmin Catley MP, NSW Minister for Police
The Hon Jodie Harrison MP, NSW Minister for Women, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Mr Philip Donato MP, NSW Member for Orange
NSW Police Commissioner Mal Lanyon APM, NSW Police Force
Supt Luke Rankin, Commander, Central West, NSW Police Force
Mr Murat Dizdar PSM, Secretary, NSW Department of Education
Mr Mark Barraket, Deputy Secretary, Early Childhood Outcomes, NSW Department of Education
Dr Hannah Tonkin, Women's Safety Commissioner
Ms Jennifer Quincey, Executive Director, Women, Family and Community Safety, NSW Department of Communities and Justice



NEWS

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Sentencing of Daniel Billings for murder of Molly Ticehurst delayed

By Lani Oatway

ABC Central West

Courts

Fri 22 May 2026 at 6:20pm



Molly Ticehurst was found dead in her Forbes home in 2024. (Supplied)

In short:

Daniel Billings's sentencing for the domestic violence murder of Molly Ticehurst has been delayed until September.

His defence team has filed psychiatric evidence that found he was mentally impaired when he killed her.

What's next?

The prosecution will engage its own expert to assess Billings.

The sentencing of the man who murdered childcare worker Molly Ticehurst has been delayed after his lawyers submitted evidence he had a "severe form of depression" when he killed her.

Daniel Billings [pleaded guilty in November](#) to murdering Ms Ticehurst in April 2024 at her home in the NSW Central West town of Forbes.



Flowers were laid outside Molly Ticehurst's Forbes home after Daniel Billings murdered her in April 2024. (ABC Central West: Lani Oataway)

Billings was on [bail for several domestic violence charges](#) against the 28-year-old mother, including rape, stalking and intimidation, when he murdered her.

He was listed to be sentenced in Orange at the beginning of June but those dates have now been cleared.

On Friday Billings's defence team told the NSW Supreme Court in Sydney that a forensic psychiatrist found he

Family and domestic violence support services:

If you need help immediately, call emergency services on Triple Zero.

was affected by a depressive illness at the time of the murder.

Court documents seen by the ABC included an excerpt from the report that said Billings had a "severe form of depression".

"Mr Billings's depressive illness resulted in a mental impairment at the time of the offence," the report said.

"His abnormal state of mind is likely to have affected his perception of the events and also his capacity to exercise proper control over his actions."

- [Women's Crisis Line](#): 1800 811 811
- [1800 Respect National Helpline](#): 1800 737 732
- [Men's Referral Service](#): 1300 766 491
- [The Kids Helpline](#): 24-hour support on 1800 55 1800
- [Lifeline](#): 131 114



Molly Ticehurst's former partner was on bail over a number of domestic violence charges. (GoFundMe)

The court heard that if the impairment was found to be "substantial" it could allow Billings to face a manslaughter charge instead.

Defence barrister Sarah Talbert told the court her client wanted to continue with the offence of murder and asked that the medical evidence

be taken into account in sentencing.

Billings observed the proceedings quietly through an online video link from the Goulburn Supermax prison.

Crown prosecutor Lee Carr SC filed a motion to delay the sentence dates so his team could find their own expert to assess the 31-year-old.

The court heard Billings did not agree to see another psychiatrist, meaning the Crown's expert would need to form an opinion based on more than 1,000 pages of medical information.

The court documents said that two psychiatrists were available to complete reports by the end of August, while another could finish an assessment by the end of November.

Justice Natalie Adams vacated the original sentence dates next month and relisted them for early September.

The matter will be heard again in August for mention.

The charges of property damage, animal cruelty offences and breaching an apprehended violence order will be taken into consideration when Billings is sentenced.

With AAP

Posted

Fri 22 May 2026 at 6:20pm

, updated



Daniel Billings pleaded guilty to the domestic violence murder of his former partner Molly Ticehurst. (Supplied)

Fri 22 May 2026 at 6:21 pm

Family and domestic violence support:

- [1800 Respect national helpline:](#)
1800 737 732
- [Women's Crisis Line:](#)
1800 811 811
- [Men's Referral Service:](#)
1300 766 491
- [Lifeline](#) (24 hour crisis line):
131 114
- [Relationships Australia:](#)
1300 364 277
- [NSW Domestic Violence Line:](#)
1800 656 463
- [Qld DV Connect Womensline:](#)
1800 811 811
- [Vic Safe Steps crisis response line:](#)
1800 015 188
- [ACT 24/7 Crisis Line:](#)
(02) 6280 0900
- [Tas Family Violence Counselling and Support Service:](#)
1800 608 122
- [SA Domestic Violence Crisis Line:](#)
1800 800 098
- [WA Women's Domestic Violence 24h Helpline:](#)
1800 007 339
- [NT Domestic violence helpline:](#)
1800 737 732



NSW

- 180 charges for alleged offending against 23 children
- 68 counts of sexual intercourse with a child under 10
- 42 counts of aggravated sexual intercourse with a child under 10 under authority
- 69 counts of aggravated indecent assault
- 1 count of producing child abuse material



was VALID during the alleged incidences

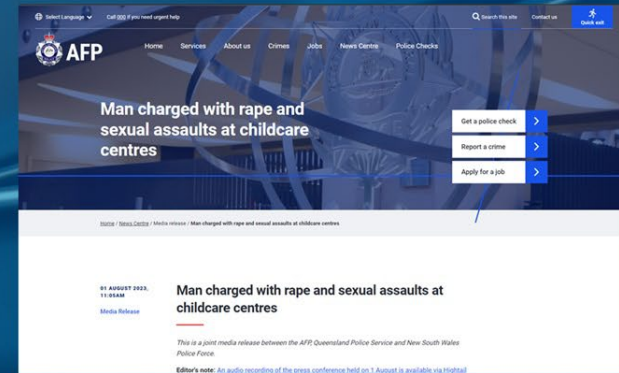


QLD

- 1,443 charges for alleged offending against 64 children
- 136 counts of rape
- 604 counts of indecent treatment of a child
- 613 counts of making child exploitation material
- 83 counts of possessing, controlling, producing, distributing or obtaining child pornography material outside Australia
- 1 count of possessing, controlling, distributing or obtaining child pornography material
- 6 counts of posting child exploitation material



was VALID during the alleged incidences



1,623 charges

in August 2023

Yet, as of end November 2024:
307 convictions in QLD
0 convictions in NSW

Need for Child Safety Reform