

For Immediate Release

Wednesday November 18 2020

Domestic violence funding in the NSW budget fails to match need

Despite high rates of domestic and family violence in NSW, including [increases in violence](#) directly caused by COVID, politicians have failed to address the issue.

“Increases in funding to the domestic violence sector in the NSW budget were small and **do not match the current need for services in the community**,” says Women’s Safety NSW CEO, Hayley Foster. “In our [most recent survey](#) with member services, 51% stated a need for more resources to ensure women experiencing violence and abuse, who have complex needs, can access specialist support.”

“Despite earlier promises, there has been **no new commitment** to ensure adult and child victim-survivors can **access the domestic and family violence case management** support they need to achieve lasting safety and wellbeing,” says Ms Foster.

“The NSW community is deeply concerned about the impact of domestic and family violence, yet the words ‘**domestic violence**’ were not mentioned once by the NSW Treasurer in yesterday’s budget speech,” says DVNSW Interim CEO, Delia Donovan.

“Whilst domestic and family violence accounts for over 40% of homelessness, there has been no increase to specialist homelessness services, and the **NSW budget announced 86% less investment in social housing** in the short term than we have asked for. A lack of safe housing means women and children experiencing violence face homelessness or be forced to remain living with a violent perpetrator due to lack of options,” says Ms Donovan. “The NSW budget is in stark contrast to the \$5.3 billion recently announced for new social housing in Victoria.”

The DVNSW 2020 Housing Policy, released 15 July 2020, called upon the NSW government to:

1. Invest in the construction of 5,000 social housing properties every year for the next 10 years
2. Increase the funding for the Specialist Homelessness Services Program by 20%.

Much of the funding for domestic and family violence has been previously announced or is recurrent from previous budgets.

“**We need a substantial investment** to respond to and prevent domestic and family violence. Without this we will continue to see lives ruined and, in all too many tragic cases, lost,” says Ms Donovan.

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Media Spokespeople

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Domestic Violence NSW is the peak body for specialist domestic and family violence services in NSW. DVNSW provides a representative and advocacy function for specialist services and the women, families and communities they support. Their mission is to eliminate domestic and family violence through leadership in policy, advocacy, partnerships and the promotion of best practice.

Women's Safety NSW is a peak representative body for women's specialist domestic and family violence services. Our purpose is to advocate on behalf of our members for women's safety, justice and wellbeing in the context of domestic and family violence through policy, practice, law reform and cultural change.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence help can be found via:

- ***1800RESPECT*** or 1800 737 732 which offers a national counselling helpline, information and support
- ***NSW Domestic Violence Line*** 1800 65 64 63 which offers a state-wide counselling helpline, information and support
- ***Men's Referral Service*** 1300 766 491 for men, or friends and family of men using violence