



Pru Goward

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Medical Research

Assistant Minister for Health

Minister for Women

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$10.5 million for vital Lifeline services

Minister for Mental Health Pru Goward today announced the 2015-16 NSW Budget will provide \$10.5 million over four years to Lifeline Australia, helping them as they work to save lives every day.

Ms Goward said the pledge builds on the Government's 2011-2014 commitment of \$8 million, increasing the funding and providing another four years of support.

"Lifeline offers vital crisis support and suicide prevention services to more than 2,000 callers every day across the country," Ms Goward said.

More than 430,000 calls are expected to be answered this financial year by Crisis Supporters at Lifeline Centres in NSW - this is a twenty per cent increase on the last two years.

Ms Goward said Lifeline's work is particularly important in rural and regional NSW where people may be isolated and far from help, vulnerable to losing sight of hope.

"Increasing and extending this funding will help this vital organisation answer more calls and respond to people in crisis," Ms Goward said.

Lifeline Australia Chairman John Brogden said the continuation of funding by the NSW Government for 13 11 14 – Lifeline's 24/7 telephone crisis support line, will save lives.

"Our crisis support and suicide prevention services continue to play a vital role in supporting the mental wellness of the NSW community, and this funding ensures we can be there in the years to come," Mr Brogden said.

To support Lifeline go to www.lifeline.org.au or for crisis support call 13 11 14.