



Pru Goward

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Medical Research

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Minister for Women

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

MEDIA RELEASE

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A STRONGER RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ASSAULT

The NSW Government will commit \$1.3 million to expand the number of qualified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) in high-risk rural and regional communities in NSW, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Pru Goward said today.

BOCSAR data indicates there were 4,850 recorded sexual assault victims in NSW in the 12 months to June 2015, with 81 percent of these victims being female.

“More must be done to continue to support victims of this horrible crime as well as prevent it from occurring,” Ms Goward said.

“Today’s investment will expand the number of specialised sexual assault nurses over the next four years in regional and rural communities. These specialised nurses provide services and collect forensic evidence for adult victims of sexual assault. They also provide crucial expert advice for criminal proceedings where required.

“This means quality evidence can be collected without delay in regional and rural communities across NSW.”

The NSW Government will also work in close partnership with non-government experts from the domestic violence and sexual assault sector to develop a NSW Sexual Assault Strategy over the next six months. The strategy will have a dual focus on prevention and ensuring coordinated, high quality care and support for victims.

This will be achieved by expanding the Domestic and Family Violence Council to include sexual assault. The Council will be renamed the Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council, and charged with providing expert advice in developing the strategy.