



Brad Hazzard

Minister for Family and Community Services
Minister for Social Housing

Pru Goward

Minister for Women
Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

MEDIA RELEASE

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FUNDING BOOST FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS SERVICES

Crisis accommodation services that help victims escape domestic and family violence will be given a boost of \$20 million, Minister for Family and Community Services Brad Hazzard and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Pru Goward announced today.

Mr Hazzard said the additional funding will mean more women will get assistance around the clock.

“The NSW Government is already spending a record \$182 million in 2015–16 on specialist homelessness services, including women’s refuges, but we know demand is growing and we are responding to this need,” Mr Hazzard said.

The additional \$20 million is flexible and is designed to meet unmet local needs through:

- Providing expert and responsive 24/7 on-call services.
- Increasing beds through refuges renting nearby properties.
- Providing more crisis/emergency accommodation and temporary accommodation.

Local Family and Community Services (FACS) Districts will engage with their local Specialist Homelessness Services to implement these initiatives.

Ms Goward said specialist support services are crucial in helping victims leave abusive relationships.

“This extra funding will help people leaving abusive relationships make the crucial step forward to build a new life, safe and free from violence,” Ms Goward said.

In addition, four new *Staying Home Leaving Violence* sites will commence in Orange, Clarence Valley, Inverell and Coffs Harbour, bringing the total number of sites up to 27 across the state.

The four new sites were chosen based on Police data on domestic violence-related assaults and Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders (ADVOs), as well as the presence of local support programs, including other domestic violence services.

The NSW Government has prioritised boosting the capacity of women’s homelessness and women’s refuge services with an additional \$20 million made available as a result of the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness.

FACT SHEET

SUPPORTING WOMEN AND CHILDREN EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Crisis accommodation

The NSW Government is investing \$20 million over two years to boost the capacity of women's refuges and other specialist homelessness services. This investment will help respond to increased demand and better assist women experiencing domestic and family violence.

How will this work?

Funding will be directed to deliver expert 24/7 around the clock support. The funding is flexible and can be used to source additional temporary motel accommodation and crisis or emergency accommodation. It may also be used for refuges to lease nearby properties where staff will continue to work with all women in their care, supporting them to re-establish their lives.

What happens next?

The enhanced services will reflect local needs. Family and Community Services will consult locally with specialist homelessness services that deliver women's refuges and domestic and family violence support. This work will identify the additional accommodation and support required, with a view to funding commencing in early 2016.

Staying Home Leaving Violence

Staying Home Leaving Violence (SHLV) reduces risk to women and children escaping violence by supporting them to stay safely in their home of choice, and prevent homelessness by working with police to remove the perpetrator from the family home.

SHLV delivers intensive case work and provides long-term, needs based support including emotional and practical support. Services work in partnership with key agencies such as the police, courts, health services and non-government organisations.

The program places accountability firmly on the shoulders of perpetrators. This prevents women and children from being driven into homelessness and being uprooted from their families, friends and schools.

Where are the SHLV locations in NSW?

The four new SHLV locations are Coffs Harbour, Inverell, Orange and Clarence Valley. There are now 27 SHLV sites across NSW including Bega, Blacktown/Mount Druitt, Broken Hill, Campbelltown, Cessnock, Dubbo, Eastern Sydney, Fairfield, Gosford, Holroyd, Kempsey, Lake Macquarie, Liverpool, Maitland, Moree, Newcastle, Nowra, Parramatta, Penrith, Redfern, Tamworth, Wollongong and Wyong

The NSW Government will invest \$5.6 million in 2015-16 to deliver these sites.

How do people access the Staying Home Leaving Violence?

People are referred to a local Staying Home Leaving Violence service by the police, Family and Community Services, non government services, Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy, General Practitioners, health services, family and friends or self referral.

GETTING HELP

- Anyone in immediate danger should call **000**.
- For information and support call the NSW Domestic Violence Line on **1800 656 463** or **1800 RESPECT** on **1800 737 732**.
- For information and referral to crisis accommodation and support call
- Link2home on **1800 152 152**.
- Men having problems with violent behaviour can call the Men's Referral Service on **1300 766 491**.