



STATEMENT FROM SOS – INNER CITY WOMEN'S SERVICES

30 October 2014

Inner-city women's services which lost funding under the NSW Government's *Going Home Staying Home* reforms have had their full funding and buildings restored following lengthy discussions with the Government.

The inner-city women's services will continue to operate following the signing of new contracts this week.

We're extremely pleased that the NSW Government has recognised the important work of these refuges and that we were able to work closely with the Government on ensuring these essential services can continue into the future.

We'd like to thank the Minister Gabrielle Upton for recognising the essential work of these services and her willingness to work with us to find a solution, after recognising that cuts to the inner city were too drastic and funding needed to be restored.

The women's services that have been saved specialise in providing support and safe accommodation to women with mental illness, drug and alcohol dependency, domestic violence and leaving custody.

We're particularly pleased that Young People's Refuge in Leichhardt will remain open as it's the only girls-only crisis refuge in NSW and provides a critical service to girls as young as 13 escaping domestic violence and sexual abuse.

The five successful services are Detour House, Young People's Refuge, B Miles, Stepping Out Housing and the Community Restorative Centre women's program.

Our heart-felt thanks also to the many MPs, councils, health and social services and community members who've thrown their support behind the campaign to support women's refuges. This was a huge community effort and it's a massive achievement which will mean thousands of women and girls are better off.

We will continue to work with the Government and affected communities on ensuring these reforms deliver the best outcomes for women and children.

Roxanne McMurray
SOS Women's Services

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