



STATEMENT FROM SOS WOMEN'S SERVICES NSW OMBUDSMAN CALLS OFF REVIEW

7 November 2014

The NSW Ombudsman has announced that its review into the *Going Home Staying Home* reforms will not be proceeding.

In informing stakeholders of the decision, the Ombudsman has stated that due to the recent decision by the NSW Upper House ordering the Government to release documentation relating to the reforms:

"...the Ombudsman has reached a decision that it would not be appropriate for our office to continue to concurrently undertake a resolution-focussed approach to examining the GSHS reforms."

Today we have contacted the Ombudsman expressing our extreme disappointment with the decision and will be urging them to continue to take a close interest and resume this important review.

We respect the independence of the Ombudsman's office, but are disappointed there will not be official oversight of these reforms and that Parliament will not receive an independent report. Issues of importance are often concurrently overseen by Parliament and oversight bodies.

The Ombudsman's role was going to ensure the only independent review of the biggest reforms ever undertaken in the homelessness sector, which has been severely impacted by the reforms.

There has been widespread concern throughout the reform process about the lack of transparency, and many members of the peak bodies have repeatedly raised concerns about the lack of consultation and the outcomes.

People who have worked in the sector for decades say the reforms are the worst they have ever experienced and have severely impacted the vulnerable people they work with. The only way for the sector to move forward was for there to be a thorough examination of the impact of the reforms and to learn from it.

Roxanne McMurray
SOS Spokeswoman

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