



MEDIA STATEMENT

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We strongly welcome the NSW Government's announcement today of a \$60 million package targeting perpetrators of domestic violence as well as additional funding for refuges.

Strong measures to support police to tackle this epidemic and calling the perpetrators exactly what they are – criminals – sends the right message loud and clear.

SOS has been lobbying the Government for an on-call 24 hour staff member at every refuge in NSW, and we welcome the announcement that funding will be spent on boosting 24 hour access and specialist support services, which we're hopeful will be rolled out state-wide.

Overall this is a strong package and the Government deserves to be congratulated for its commitment.

However we do have concerns the Government continues to say no refuges have closed. Just because the same buildings are being used doesn't mean it's the same thing. In fact there are only a handful of specialist refuges left.

Most refuges now mix homeless women with women and children escaping domestic violence which is not always appropriate and is placing enormous strain on an already stretched system.

We've spoken recently to every refuge in NSW and most are referring domestic violence victims to motels and caravan parks because they're now also taking in homeless women, which leaves victims exposed or reluctant to leave home.

Today's announcement is another important step and we look forward to continuing to work with the Government.

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