



The Hon Gabrielle Upton MP

Minister for Family and Community Services

MEDIA RELEASE

30 October 2014

BIG WIN FOR INNER CITY WOMEN'S SERVICES

Family and Community Services Minister Gabrielle Upton today saw firsthand the work of the Young People's Refuge, operated by Detour House, in helping those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Earlier this year, the NSW Government announced funding of \$8.6 million per annum over three years to restore Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) in the inner-city of Sydney. This funding is helping SHS providers implement the *Going Home Staying Home* reforms.

Minister Upton said "The *Going Home Staying Home* reforms are long needed change.

"Put simply, *Going Home Staying Home* means more money and better services delivered to the areas of greatest need," Ms Upton said.

"Over the next three years, the NSW Government will invest a record half a billion dollars right across NSW to tackle homelessness head on.

"As I said back in June, we needed to ensure the inner city had more support and time to adjust so that people did not slip through the cracks, which is why I restored the \$8.6 million in funding to the inner city."

SOS Women's Services spokeswoman, Roxanne McMurray, said five inner-city services had received full funding for three years following the signing of new contracts.

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

"I congratulate the Minister, Gabrielle Upton, on 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.

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

SOS Women's Services welcomed continued funding for:

- Detour House
- Young People's Refuge
- B Miles
- Stepping Out
- Community Restorative Centre women's program.



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“We will continue to work with the Government on ensuring these reforms deliver the best outcomes for women escaping domestic violence and who are experiencing other problems like sexual abuse, mental health and drug and alcohol addiction,” Ms McMurray said.

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