



24 August 2016

## **Moving in the right direction on domestic violence in NSW**

CEO of YWCA NSW, The Honourable Anna Bligh, welcomes the NSW Governments' new blueprint for domestic and family violence as a move in the right direction.

"Of course, we welcome the extra funding and focus to improve the lives of women and children affected by family and domestic violence," Ms. Bligh said.

The NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform doubles funding to \$75 million per year.

A focus on finding new approaches is also a welcome part of the reform. An "Innovation Fund" will be established, as well as research into attitudes that support domestic violence.

"Domestic and family violence is the significant social issue of our time. Incidence rates have not been improving. We're not seeing change. Some new thinking is required and so a focus on innovation and research is the right approach," Ms. Bligh added.

Greater accountability for perpetrators is another welcome reform in the five-year blueprint.

"The arduous and painful process of justice for victims desperately needs to be alleviated," Ms. Bligh said.

Statistics on domestic and family violence in Australia and NSW:

- 1 in 3 women have experienced physical violence since the age of 15
- Every day in NSW, over 50 women experience assault<sup>i</sup>
- In NSW, 2 in 3 physical or sexual assaults on women are by a current or former partner<sup>ii</sup>
- In 2015, YWCA NSW helped over 1,500 women and children escaping domestic violence

# Media release



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## Spokespeople

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- Neesha Eckersley, Head of Programs, YWCA NSW

## About YWCA NSW

YWCA NSW provides domestic violence support, and homelessness support, along with other programs focused on improving gender equality and eliminating domestic violence. Funding for the YWCA comes from Government, corporate partners, the community, and through businesses owned by the charity.

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<sup>i</sup> Based on 19,488 assaults on women recorded by NSW Police in 2014

<sup>ii</sup> 9,651 by a current partner and 2,993 by a former partner out of 19,488 assaults in 2014