13 June 2014

Joint Statement:
WOMEN’S REFUGES STILL FACE UNCERTAINTY

Despite the State Government’s newly reviewed “Going Home, Staying Home” funding model, Independent Member for Sydney, Alex Greenwich, and SOS Women’s Services have raised concerns about continued funding uncertainty for Sydney’s Women’s refuges.

Mr Greenwich said:

“Refuges that support women in crisis continue to be thrown into crisis themselves by the Government. After a protracted tender process, these refuges must now apply again with no certainty they will get funding or be able to accommodate women in need.”

“I call on the government to give refuges access to the Services Support Fund today so they can continue to operate and not be forced to turn away another vulnerable woman or girl.”

Kate Timmins from SOS Women’s Services said:

“We appreciate the fact that the Minister has tried to listen but she needs to keep doing that.”

“We weren’t consulted about this before today’s announcement.”

When we looked at the detail our concerns were still there.

“The Government has announced additional funding but women’s refuges are going have to re-apply and there’s no guarantee they’ll be successful.”

“These refuges are closing their doors already.”

“We would have preferred to see our funding restored, because it should never have been taken away in the first place.”

“The refuges will still be losing their housing in the next few weeks, so even if they’re successful in getting new funding, there’s no guarantee they’ll have buildings to operate out of.”

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