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Media release: Community campaign saves women’s services

After strong community campaigning, funding has been restored to a number of women’s specialist services in the electorate of Balmain and inner Sydney.

Full funding and buildings have been restored to Detour House, Young People’s Refuge, Stepping Out and Community Restorative Centre women’s program in the Balmain electorate.

Greens MP Jamie Parker has welcomed the restoration of funding to some local services, but says “It’s disappointing that it took months of community campaigning and involved an incredible lack of certainty for clients and workers to get the government to see the importance of these vital services.

“I met with the minister and minister’s staff, I’ve spoken at rallies, and met with local residents, and whilst it took a lot of effort and campaigning from myself and many others, I acknowledge the Minister’s U-turn and am thankful that compassion and common sense has prevailed.

“These organisations provide critical services for women and girls and had lost funding under the Going Home Staying Home’ reforms introduced by the coalition government.

“While we’ve been able to restore funding to these services in Sydney there are still a wide range of services across NSW that face an uncertain future.

“I look forward to hearing equally encouraging news about other women’s services in other regions of Sydney and throughout NSW.

“My thanks go to all the community organisations which have been involved in the campaign.”

SOS Women’s Services spokesperson Roxanne McMurray says, “Jamie locked in his support right from the start of the campaign, and all of our staff and clients are very grateful for his help in ensuring continued funding for these essential services.

"The loss of these women’s services would have been a loss to the whole community and by working together we’ve ensured that they will continue to do their very important work."

ENDS