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UPCOMING STATE BUDGET A CHANCE FOR GREATER SUPPORT FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT GROUPS

The Baird Government is being urged to use the upcoming state budget as an opportunity to provide more resources for domestic violence services across the state.

Refuges and domestic violence services are being met with enormous demand as more victims of domestic abuse have come forward.

Recent figures from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) showed a 1.9 per cent state wide increase in the number of reported domestic violence incidents.

Refuge centres have been under greater financial pressure after the Baird Government merged funding for domestic violence with homelessness services in 2014.

Support service, SOS Women’s Services has launched a campaign to detail the personal accounts of women who have been the victims of domestic violence.

These women’s stories have reinforced the need for well-resourced refuges and services.

Quotes attributable to Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Jenny Aitchison

“These women have bravely told their stories because they want the Government to listen to real experiences and provide services with proper funding.

“In 2014 the Government merged homelessness funding with funding for domestic violence, and refuges now have to help homeless women as well as domestic violence clients on the same amount of money.

“The Victorian Government has committed more than half a billion dollars to domestic violence after its Royal Commission handed down its findings. “That amount is a game-changer and the Baird Government needs to step up.”

Quotes attributable to spokeswoman for SOS Women’s Services Roxanne McMurray

“Domestic violence is on the national agenda like never before but services across NSW are stretched to capacity.

“The words “domestic violence” can sometimes become a bit abstract and these women’s stories haven’t been glossed over to show their true meaning.

“The women we spoke to don’t regard themselves as victims and see refuges as a circuit breaker to getting back to a better life, having a good job and giving back.

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“If we can commit billions of dollars to sports stadiums, we can put more into achieving true generational change in regard to violence.”