

CARMEL TEBBUTT MP | State Member for Marrickville
VERITY FIRTH MP | State Member for Balmain

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

MORE SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Friday 18 June 2010

Women in the Inner West will continue to benefit from specialist support services for victims of domestic violence. Local Members Carmel Tebbutt and Verity Firth today welcomed the budget measure which will ensure that the *Domestic Violence Proactive Support Services* program will receive a \$3.7 million boost under the NSW Government's \$50 million Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan.

Member for Marrickville Carmel Tebbutt said the funding boost would see the partnership between Marrickville Legal Centre and Marrickville Local Area Command continue with a domestic violence specialist working with local police to provide support services for victims of domestic violence.

"As part of the Domestic Violence Proactive Support Services program, a domestic violence specialist from Marrickville Legal Centre will work side-by-side with Marrickville, Leichhardt, and Newtown Local Area Commands to provide immediate intervention and advice for victims and better support victims' safety, legal and social support needs," Ms Tebbutt said.

"This will help women experiencing domestic violence, by giving them additional support to protect themselves and their families, and help them make the decisions to break the cycle of violence.

"Domestic and family violence is the responsibility of the whole community and we need to change the way our society treats domestic violence to more effectively prevent and respond to it."

Verity Firth MP, Member for Balmain said that the recently announced NSW Government's Domestic Violence Action Plan will lay the foundation for a shift in how the government, the community and individuals, respond to domestic violence.

"Police officers are often the first point of contact when domestic violence occurs.

"That's why it's so important specialist domestic violence workers are right there with police.

"More specialist support staff working hand in hand with NSW Police in Local Area Commands will give domestic violence victims security, safety and support where and when it's needed most.

"Official reports show one in three women are physically assaulted in their lifetime and 42 per cent of homicides are the result of domestic and family violence.

"This is simply unacceptable – this service will help break the cycle," Ms Firth said.

A full copy of the Action Plan can be found on the Office for Women's Policy website at www.women.nsw.gov.au.