

NSW Budget Summary

2024-25



ncoss
NSW Council of Social Service

Domestic and Family Violence

Challenge

- Domestic violence-related assaults continue to rise, increasing by over 5% in the past two years.
- Two in five women in Australia have experienced violence in their lifetime, and one in four have experienced violence by an intimate partner or family member.
- Domestic and family violence continues to be a leading driver of homelessness. In NSW, impacted women and children make up almost half of all specialist homelessness service clients experiencing persistent homelessness.

Key Budget Measures



- \$5.1B for social housing, including at least half of new homes prioritised for victim-survivors.
- \$245.6M for domestic and family violence support services, including:
 - \$48M to expand the Staying Home Leaving Violence Program to all 128 NSW council areas.
 - \$48.1M to expand specialist workers for children and young people in refuges.
 - \$45M to improve bail laws and justice system responses.
 - \$38.3M for NSW’s first Primary Prevention Strategy.
 - \$8.1M for the ‘All in’ early childhood pilot program to teach children about healthy relationships.
 - \$29.6M for the Women’s Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (including \$5.6 million new funding to meet increased demand).
 - \$3.6M for Domestic Violence NSW.
 - \$10M for Men’s Behaviour Change Programs.

NCOSS Position

- NCOSS celebrates the investments in social housing for victim-survivors and welcomes the expansion of the Staying Home Leaving Violence Program and more specialist workers for children and young people.
- The focus on primary prevention and funding for Domestic Violence NSW and the Women’s Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service to continue their important work is a positive step.
- Significantly more funding – at least \$100 million over 4 years – is required for primary prevention to address gendered violence at its root, as well as specific funding to address sexual violence.
- NCOSS continues to call for additional baseline funding for the specialist domestic and family violence sector to address ongoing unmet need.