



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 24 May, 2024

INVESTMENT IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION BOTH WELCOME AND NEEDED

The NSW Government's extra \$15.9 million for domestic violence early intervention initiatives will help keep children safe and families safe and together.

That's the verdict from Fams, the peak body for NSW family and children's services, which warmly welcomes the government funding announcement today.

The NSW Government has announced the extra investment under the Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence National Partnership Agreement.

Fams Acting CEO, Lauren Stracey, said the Government is taking a more proactive and integrated approach on domestic violence.

"We have been calling on the NSW Government to increase early intervention and prevention funding across the board for some time," Ms Stracey said.

"This announcement is a good first step in supporting important work in the community which will keep families safe and together.

"As a next step, in the forthcoming NSW Budget we would like to see long-term funding that extends over several years.

"Together funding injections and funding longevity will keep front-line early intervention services operating, helping women and children escape domestic violence.

"Frontline workers in the not-for-profit system are achieving amazing outcomes through incredible skill and sheer determination, but they're stretched to their absolute limit.

"Early intervention stops kids experiencing harm and getting to crisis point in the first place. We urgently need to fund more services to keep kids safe and break the cycle of violence."

Ms Stracey said that across-the-board funding increases are needed, but also targeted funding for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

"Indigenous women are 33 times more likely to be hospitalised due to domestic violence, and Aboriginal children are significantly overrepresented in Out-Of-Home Care," she said.

"ACCO's are critical to making impact in early intervention, and we need to see greater funding here to ensure culturally appropriate responses."

Ms Stracey said that investing in early intervention services can divert children from situations where they end up living in unsuitable situations such as hotels.

"We know that families who experience domestic and family violence are more likely than other families to come to the attention of child protection," Ms Stracey said.

“We also know that with the right support, investing early and promoting safety, we can ensure kids can remain safely with the non-offending parent and prevent a child from being removed unnecessarily.

“This is the absolute crisis end of the system, which we know creates ripples of heartache and trauma for generations. And we have the ability to prevent it. We just need the funding.

“With continued investment and support, we can do more work to identify and address issues early on, and prevent domestic violence.

“Today’s announcement is a wonderful step – the first hopefully of many.”

Media contact: Phil McCall 0438 619 987