

STATE BUDGET

2019-20

MINISTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES HON MICHELLE LENSINK MLC MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 18 June 2019

Funding boost to continue Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme

The Marshall Liberal Government is continuing its ongoing commitment to address the scourge of domestic violence by providing an additional \$383,000 in the 2019-20 State Budget towards ensuring the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) trial remains available for people at risk.

Strong results in the 2018-19 DVDS trial has triggered a commitment to further funding allowing the trial to continue in 2019-20.

In the first seven months since the scheme began on October 2, 2018, the DVDS received 132 applications, highlighting a strong awareness and uptake of the scheme by people at risk of, or experiencing, domestic and family violence.

Of those applications, 67 per cent of people accessing the scheme had not had any previous contact with domestic violence support services.

The DVDS initiative is aimed at protecting people at risk of domestic violence, including identifying potential victims who had previously never reached out to support services. The scheme enables individuals or their loved ones to enquire about their current or former partner's criminal history.

The disclosure information by South Australia Police allows individuals who are potentially at risk to make an informed decision about their safety and the safety of their children. The DVDS also provides the opportunity for applicants to receive risk assessment, safety planning and ongoing support where required from a specialist domestic violence worker.

Minister for Human Services Michelle Lensink welcomed the funding boost which highlights the Marshall Liberal Government's commitment to improving the safety of women and their children.

"I am pleased that the Liberal Government has committed a further \$383,000 to continue the state-wide trial of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme – it highlights our unwavering dedication to combating domestic and family violence," said Minister Lensink.

"The results speak for themselves – the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme is connecting new women who have never had contact with domestic violence support services, which is further proof this trial is worthwhile.

"The volume of applications so far demonstrates there are people at risk of experiencing domestic and family violence in South Australia and this scheme is an important way to help take control of their situation, and possibly provide a safer environment for themselves and their children."

STATE BUDGET

2019-20

In addition to the DVDS funding boost, the Government remains committed to combating the scourge of domestic violence.

Ongoing budget measures include:

- The roll out of 40 new crisis accommodation beds for South Australians leaving domestic and family violence across Adelaide and the regions, with 75 per cent up and running by the end of the year and the remainder by April 2020.
- After direct feedback from the sector, the community and DV advocates with lived experience, the crisis beds initiative will include a trial that removes perpetrators from the family home.
- The recent release of *Committed to Safety: A Framework for Addressing Domestic Family and Sexual Violence*, outlines how the Liberal Government will develop and deliver new policy across the state over the next four years.
- A total of nine new safety hubs will be rolled out across regional SA from now until June 2021. They are the first government-led hubs in SA where people who are experiencing, or at risk of, domestic, family and sexual violence can access information and support from staff and volunteers face-to-face.
- Continuing to fund the Women's Safety Services SA domestic violence crisis hotline to 24-hours a day.
- Continuing to fund the South Australian Coalition of Women's Domestic Violence Services as the peak body.

"Domestic violence is, shockingly, an issue that affects the lives of far too many people across the nation – one in four women in Australia experience intimate partner violence," said Minister Lensink.

"The Marshall Liberal Government will continue to partner with the sector and the community to ensure we get the best advice about how we can continue combat domestic, family and sexual violence.

"We will continue to do whatever we can going forward to ensure women feel safe and supported and know where to turn for help if they don't."