



Women's Electoral Lobby | 8-10 Victoria Street, Newtown, NSW 2042

EMAIL: wel@welnsw.org.au

WEBSITE: www.wel.org.au

Senator Richard Di Natale
Leader of the Australian Greens
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

27 May 2016

Dear Senator Di Natale,

We write to welcome the Green's election commitment to a ten year, \$5 billion National Partnership Agreement on Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women to fund specialist services such as crisis phone services, women's refuges, training for service providers, counselling, perpetrator interventions, and other specialist domestic violence services.

The Women's Electoral Lobby is writing to party leaders to secure Commonwealth funding for women's refuges and other front line services for women and children escaping domestic and family violence.

The Women and Children's Safety Program (see attached fact sheet) has been developed by the Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL) to provide adequate long-term funding for women's refuges and other frontline women's emergency services, including transitional housing. Acknowledging that the current National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH) ends 30 June 2017, the Women and Children's Safety Program provides for women's refuges and other emergency front line life-saving services. The cost to the Commonwealth is an estimated \$1billion over five years, to be matched by the States.

The proposed program is supported by more than 30 women's and community organisations including Chief Executive Women, White Ribbon Australia, Women on Boards, National Women's Rural Coalition, Australian Federation of Graduate Women, Federation of Ethnic Communities Council, National Council of Single Mothers and their children and the Australian Women's Health Network.

We ask that you provide further detail of your commitment to women and children's safety by Friday 17 June to enable us to publish your response, along with those of other political parties, in the week before the federal election on 2 July.

Yours sincerely,

Helen L'Orange

Helen L'Orange AM
Convenor, WEL Violence Against Women Action Group
M: 0425 244 935
E: helen.lorange@bigpond.com

For further information on WEL's Women and Children's Safety Program:
Visit http://www.wel.org.au/wrahp_proposal to view the Women and Children Safety Program Proposal and Women's Refuges and Housing Program Draft Bill.

Attachment: Women and Children's Safety Program Fact Sheet