

MEDIA RELEASE

5 June 2025

State Budget fails to respond to SA's domestic, family and sexual violence crisis

Embolden is SA's peak body for domestic, family and sexual violence services. The statement below is attributable to Mary Leaker, General Manager.

While we welcome additional funding for the northern and southern domestic violence prevention and recovery hubs, the 2025-26 State Budget does not deliver what the specialist domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) sector wanted to see.

The funding announcements of \$26.1 million over 5 years and \$5.7 million over two years for specialist DFSV services maintains but does not increase or expand services for South Australians experiencing violence.

In a context where we are experiencing unprecedented demand for crisis domestic and family violence services, this means that many South Australians will simply not get the help they need.

Approximately one third of calls to the Domestic Violence Crisis Line are still going unanswered, despite recent staffing increases. In some months of this year, the number of women and families placed in emergency accommodation such as hotels and motels has increased by more than two thirds compared with last year. Victim-survivors deserve more than a 'maintenance' budget.

The allocation of \$3.5 million over two years will help the State Government prepare for the outcomes of the Royal Commission into domestic, family and sexual violence but falls far short of a substantial allocation of funding that will enable the State Government to respond to the most urgent recommendations of the Royal Commission.

We welcome the surplus announced by the State Government and look forward to discussing with the government the opportunities this presents to meet the critical need across the state.

South Australians experiencing, escaping and recovering from domestic, family and sexual violence cannot wait until the next budget.

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