



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Modest Budget for Men's Behaviour Change in NSW

The New South Wales Government Budget has delivered an underwhelming budget for addressing the most significant cause of family violence in its state – men's violent behaviour.

As the peak body for men's family violence in NSW, No To Violence incorporating the Men's Referral Service sees \$4.9 million for men's behaviour change programs as a positive step. But in these dire circumstances, it's a modest one compared with Victoria's \$49 million announcement for dealing with perpetrators earlier this year.

With just 9 organisations currently running accredited men's behaviour change programs in NSW and waitlists of up to six months for men seeking to address their violent behaviour, expanding men's services is critical. It is critical for protecting women and children when they are most vulnerable during the period following their decision to leave a violent partner.

While men's behaviour change programs are not the only intervention needed to hold men who use violence to account, they are the most proven and effective tool we have.

NTV/MRS' Strategy Manager, Michael Brandenburg says "today's budget shows New South Wales still has a long way to go, if it's to seriously confront family violence.

We know that overwhelmingly it's men that are perpetrating violence against women. The men's family violence sector can't address this growing problem with the bare minimum" says Mr Brandenburg.

NTV/MRS has expertise in all aspects of working with men who use family violence, including operating the Men's Referral Service - a telephone counselling and referral service for men wanting to take responsibility for their violence.

We have over 140 members across Australia and have provided services for over 20 years to engage with men who use family violence.

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Further interview and photo opportunities also possible on request.