

## MEDIA RELEASE

22 April 2020 – For Immediate Release

### **NSW Government must follow Tasmania and provide lifeline for women on temporary visas experiencing violence**

The Tasmanian Government has unveiled a [\\$3 million package](#) to support around 26,000 temporary visa holders stuck in the state because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Women's Safety NSW welcome this news which will give women in Tasmania on temporary visas experiencing violence a path to safety and are calling on the NSW Government to follow suit.

*"We are seriously concerned for the safety of women on temporary visas and their children who are in a domestic violence situation right now and have no income and virtually no access to emergency accommodation"* says Hayley Foster, chief executive office of Women's Safety NSW.

*"What can she do to protect herself and her children with no income and nowhere to go?"*

Women's Safety NSW is surveying its members who are frontline domestic violence workers across NSW as to how many of its 50,000 plus clients are in this situation, but indications are that the numbers are very, very small. They are just horrendous cases.

*"If we extend income and emergency housing support to women on temporary visas and their children experiencing violence, we're really not talking about very many cases, and it's therefore not going to cost the world",* says Foster *"But, I can assure you, it will save lives."*

Women's Safety NSW will share the results of the state-wide survey with both the NSW and Federal Government and call upon both of governments to take responsibility, but its pleas today are focussed squarely on the NSW Government.

*"We need to stop the buck-passing when it comes to this critically vulnerable group of women and children,"* says Foster *"We've called on the Federal Government to extend social security to this group, and this hasn't happened yet either."*

*"But at the end of the day, someone's got to stand up and protect these women and children's fundamental right to safety and freedom from violence. The Tasmanian Government stood up today and demonstrated its leadership within this national vacuum. We're calling on the NSW Government, and other state and territory governments to do the same."*



Advocating for freedom  
from violence

## ABOUT:

Women's Safety NSW is a peak representative body for women's specialist domestic and family violence services. Our purpose is to advocate on behalf of our members for women's safety, justice and wellbeing in the context of domestic and family violence through policy, practice, law reform and cultural change.

Our full members – Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service workers – supported 51,383 women across NSW last year through:

- NSW's integrated response to domestic and family violence, Safer Pathway, in 43 metropolitan, regional and rural locations;
- The Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program in 117 local courts across the state; and
- The Family Advocacy Support Service in Family Law Registries.

Our associate members are women's specialist domestic violence workers working in a variety of services including staying home leaving violence, women's health, women's supported accommodation, women's counselling, and women's legal services.

## CONTACT:

Hayley Foster, Chief Executive Officer | 0474 779 847 | [ceo@womenssafety NSW.org.au](mailto:ceo@womenssafety NSW.org.au)