RESTORE FUNDING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASEWORKERS AND COUNSELLORS

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled.

This petition of the citizens of New South Wales brings to the attention of the House our concern that Women's Health Centres and Women's Counselling Services are vital for providing early intervention assistance to victims of domestic violence.

Women and their families leaving domestic violence need assistance with counselling, case management, housing and many other social services.

Premier Baird and the NSW Government cut funding to a number of these services on 1 July 2016, forcing them to sack essential domestic violence caseworkers and counsellors, and leaving women and their children who are ineligible for the Government's Staying Home Leaving Violence program with no assistance to help them escape from domestic violence. Women and their families leaving domestic violence need assistance with counselling, case management, housing and many other social services.

The undersigned petitioners therefore ask the Legislative Assembly to immediately reinstate funding to domestic violence caseworkers and counsellors working in early intervention in Women's Health Centres and Women's Counselling Services.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE

PLEASE RETURN TO: Jenny Aitchison MP, PO Box 920, Maitland NSW 2320