

TREASURER TOM KOUTSANTONIS

Thursday, 7 July 2016

More funding for domestic violence Multi-Agency Protection Service

The innovative South Australian domestic violence initiative that won praise from domestic violence campaigner Rosie Batty will receive additional funding in the 2016-17 State Budget.

The Multi-Agency Protection Service (MAPS) was the first of its kind in Australia, bringing together staff from SA Police, the Department for Education and Child Development, SA Health, Housing SA and the Department for Correctional Services to ensure a co-ordinated response to high risk cases.

The Budget will provide \$683,000 over four years to expand the service to include non-government women's domestic violence services in MAPS.

The funding will provide two non-government staff, co-located with MAPS in the Adelaide CBD to ensure strong links between the government agencies and domestic violence services that women may have accessed prior to police call-outs to incidents.

Background

MAPS was a 2014 election commitment and was introduced as a pilot program.

The South Australian model has since been replicated interstate.

The women's sector has been calling for MAPS to be expanded to include non-government women's domestic violence services.

In April this year, the Social Development Committee of Parliament recommended dedicated funding to continue the service and expand it to include non-government organisations.

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

With more than one woman a week dying at the hands of a partner or former partner in Australia, we must make reducing violence against women a priority.

We are proud that MAPS has won praise nationally, including from domestic violence campaigner and former Australian of the Year Rosie Batty.

But we must strive to do more and this funding is the next step.

Quotes attributable to Status of Women Minister Zoe Bettison

The new staff will provide a liaison point to gather information from the non-government services that women may have accessed prior to police being called to incidents of domestic violence.

They will allow for MAPS to have strong links with the Victim Support Service, Specialist Women's Domestic Violence Services, the Working Women's Centre, the Women's Legal Service, Aboriginal Domestic and family Violence Services and other services

Media Contact: David Russell 0434 307 012

web: www.statebudget.sa.gov.au
twitter: @sa_press_sec

