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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### GOSFORD MISSES OUT AGAIN

Laurie Maher, Executive Officer of Coast Shelter, is incensed that once again, Gosford has missed out on State Government funding.

On this occasion, it is funding for the “Staying Home Leaving Violence” program, which is designed to address the needs of women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

Community Services Minister Linda Burney announced a further roll out of the program to a further ten Local Government Areas and Gosford, with a population of 167,000 and a very high rate of reported domestic violence related crime, is not among them.

With this latest announcement there are now sixteen Local Government Areas throughout NSW which have this program, Maher said and Gosford misses out because according to the latest crime statistics report available, although we had more than 500 incidents of domestic violence related crime recorded in Gosford, our large population has been used to deny us funding.

It's statistics and in this case damn statistics that have been used to rank Gosford LGA below Dubbo, Walgett, Kempsey and Liverpool and other Local Government Areas, all of which have populations less than Gosford.

“How on earth the raw statistics of in excess of 500 women experiencing domestic violence can be denied the assistance offered by this program simply because the rate of reported domestic violence crime per hundred thousand is less than some other areas, is beyond me” Maher stated.

It is great to see that there are now three programs in the Hunter at Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Maitland, but the Central Coast has only one program at Wyong to serve a population in excess of 300,000, when we have well in excess of 1,000 reported incidents of domestic violence each year.

The State Government has used a formula, based on the recorded number of reported incidents of Domestic Violence per hundred thousand population, instead of counting the number of women in each LGA who has been a victim.

The result is that Gosford does not even rate in the top 50 LGA in NSW, while at the same time, the amount of Domestic Violence on the Central Coast is far greater than most other LGA's.

“Somehow or other we have to get our State Politicians to demand services for our community” Maher concluded.

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