

23 June 2014

Elsie's to stay open confirm Vinnies and Domestic Violence NSW Service Management

The St Vincent de Paul Society and Domestic Violence NSW Service Management are pleased to confirm that well-respected women's domestic violence service, Elsie's will remain open and continue to provide crucial support to women and children.

Vinnies and current provider of Elsie's, Domestic Violence NSW Service Management, are both supportive of the *Going Home Staying Home* reforms and believe they will better equip the system to reduce homelessness, with early intervention being an important and welcomed component.

Two other domestic violence services, Dolores Single Women's Refuge at Bondi Junction and Wagga Wagga Women's and Children Refuge, will also keep their doors open under the transition to Vinnies.

Domestic Violence NSW Service Management, General Manager, Gillian Cohen says that they are looking forward to working with Vinnies during the transition period.

"After discussions with Vinnies, we are pleased to hear that Elsie's and two other of our domestic violence services will continue to run in line with our values and way of working. This means they will stay open as women and children services only, focusing on the particular needs of this group," said Ms Cohen.

Catherine Carmichael, Vinnies Special Works Manager explains that Vinnies has three decades of experience providing specialised services for women and children across the State and will bring this invaluable experience to the table.

"We know the special place that these services hold in the community and the sector and we can reassure people that we are committed to providing intensive and specialised services for women and children.

"Vinnies runs a number of other services in the areas of health, education, training and employment that the women and children will also be able to link into, delivering them with many options to connect with the community and end their homelessness," she said.

In addition to this, Vinnies also has strong partnerships with other organisations and a membership of 5,000 people who can assist in delivering early intervention.

"With our strong networks and access to our other services, we know that Vinnies will deliver strong outcomes for women and children who turn to us for assistance."

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