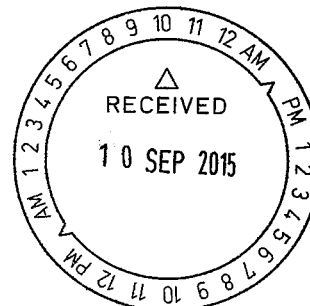




## Minister for Mental Health; Disability Services; Child Protection

Our ref: 43-15594  
Your ref: Petition No. 72



Hon Simon O'Brien MLC  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Parliament House  
Perth WA 6000

Dear Mr O'Brien

Thank you for your correspondence dated 20 August 2015 regarding clarification of outstanding issues in relation to Petition No 72 – Domestic Violence funding.

As previously advised, in the 2013 Western Australian State Election the government made a number of election commitments to manage the impact and address the prevalence of family and domestic violence. This included additional crisis accommodation for women and children fleeing violence, including \$4 million for the construction of two new refuges and operational funding of \$2 million per annum.

The construction of a new refuge in the Ellenbrook region has commenced and will provide cluster model accommodation and a Safe at Home program. The facility is expected to be completed in early 2016 and will offer a combination of five different sized independent units from a secure location.

In addition, the Wooree Miya Refuge is currently being redeveloped in the south-east metropolitan region. The re-development of the Wooree Miya Refuge will offer ten different sized independent units and will double the capacity of the existing refuge to accommodate ten families, or ten women and up to 30 children. The newly developed Wooree Miya Women's Refuge equates to an additional family and domestic violence refuge facility in the metropolitan area. The new facility is expected to be completed in 2016.

In relation to data on the turn away rate at women's refuges in Western Australia, the Specialist Homelessness Services Collection provides data on the unassisted requests for services, including accommodation. The data reports instances where requests for services resulted in a person receiving no immediate services. There may be a number of reasons why an agency cannot meet a particular request, for example, a person may need a service that is not offered by a particular agency, or in other cases agencies may be operating at capacity.

There is no one solution to family and domestic violence related homelessness. A range of prevention and intervention initiatives are needed as part of an integrated approach to addressing family and domestic violence and women and children who become homeless as a result of family and domestic violence. The State Government is committed to addressing family and domestic violence and provides significant funding for a range of family and domestic violence programs, including accommodation and support services, advocacy and counselling services, safe at home and domestic violence outreach services and coordinated response services.

Negotiations regarding the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness 2015-17 were finalised in June 2015. All organisations providing Safe at Home services accepted extensions to their Service Agreements which included an increase in their core funding levels.

I trust this information is helpful.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen Morton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Helen Morton MLC  
**MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION**

9 SEP 2015