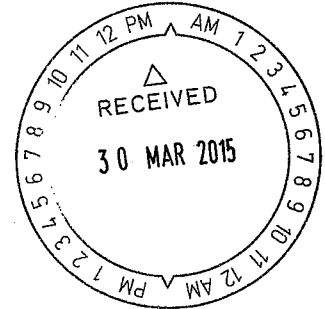




Minister for Housing; Racing and Gaming

Your Ref: Petition No 72
Our Ref: 54-00636



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

Dear Chairman

Thank you for your letter regarding Petition No 72-Domestic Violence Funding.

The Safe at Home Program is funded under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH), which expires in June 2015. The Department for Child Protection and Family Support is the lead agency responsible for the NPAH and, as such, I am unable to comment on the future of the Safe at Home Program. I do note that the Commonwealth has recently proposed a two-year extension to NPAH, subject to matching State funding, and I understand my colleague the Minister for Child Protection is actively progressing this matter.

As part of the Liberal-National State Government's response to homelessness, the Department of Housing works in partnership with the Department for Child Protection and Family Support to provide properties and support funding for women escaping domestic violence. For example, the Department of Housing's Crisis Accommodation Program provides over 650 units of accommodation for homeless people, of which 38 units are family and domestic violence refuges. The Department for Child Protection and Family Support provides and funds support services for women and children using these accommodation facilities.

The Department of Housing is also building a new family and domestic violence refuge in Ellenbrook, funded by the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, which is expected to be completed in early 2016. This will provide an important and additional service for women and children escaping domestic violence in Western Australia.

I wish the Standing Committee well in its preliminary inquiries into the petition.

Yours sincerely

HON COLIN HOLT MLC 26 MAR 2015
MINISTER FOR HOUSING