

# MEDIA RELEASE

19/02/2019

## NSW Election 2019

### Calling on Candidates - Commit to services to address domestic violence

Community Industry Group is calling on candidates for the upcoming NSW election to commit to measures which address the scourge of domestic and family violence in the region.

“Domestic assaults are at worrying rates across the region,” said Nicky Sloan, CEO of Community Industry Group “In Shellharbour, 337 people per 100,000 are victims of domestic assault, while in the Eurobodalla numbers escalate to 445 per 100,000. With more than one woman per week dying in Australia at the hands of an intimate partner, we desperately need more services to support victims to leave as well as programs to teach young people about healthy respectful relationships.”

Domestic and family violence is a significant driver of homelessness, has been demonstrated to impact on the health, development and educational achievement of children, and puts strain on local emergency services and the justice system.

Intimate partner violence is a leading contributor to illness, disability and premature death for women aged 18-44. Women with disability, especially those with an intellectual disability, are at increased risk of violence in their relationships.

“We are calling on candidates to commit to measures to reduce the incidence of domestic and family violence, as well as those which support victims,” Ms Sloan said. “We need programs which combat the impact of pornography and promote the development of healthy, respectful relationships. We need perpetrator programs which are aimed at long term, sustained behaviour change.”

“But most of all we need specialist domestic and family violence services and crisis response services to support women and children experiencing domestic and family violence, case management support for victims who are going through the courts, and support to give people experiencing violence the choice and support to remain safely in their home,” Ms Sloan said. “Where that is not an option, we must ensure all women and children experiencing domestic and family violence can immediately access crisis and transitional housing, and ultimately can move into long term social or affordable housing.”

**Media Contact:** Nicky Sloan, CEO, ph: 0407 933 279

### Media Contact:

Nicky Sloan  
CEO  
PO Box 158, Oak Flats NSW 2529  
Ph: 0407 933 279

## **About Community Industry Group**

Community Industry Group (CI Group) is the peak body working for community services and organisations in South East NSW. It supports community organisations, promotes expertise and innovation in community development, fosters industry development and provides advocacy for social justice.

The CI Group represents the non-government community services industry and works closely with numerous organisations which provide support to vulnerable people across the region including:

- social housing providers
- homelessness services
- home and community care services
- people with disability
- individuals and families with multiple layers of social and financial disadvantage
- victims of domestic violence and sexual assault
- youth work programs
- community health services, including mental health and drug/alcohol services
- community legal centre services
- community development and community capacity building.

Visit our 2019 NSW Election virtual forum, available [here](#) for information and resources. We will be collating questions from our stakeholders and sending them to candidates for comment. Responses will be shared on our website.

We will also be updating our 'Promises Calculator' which will record commitments from candidates and parties which are relevant to community organisations and their clients. This calculator will remain on our website after the election, and enable our elected representatives to 'tick off' their completed commitments.