

**Submission
No 52**

**INQUIRY INTO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRENDS AND
ISSUES IN NSW**

Name: Hon Sophie Cotsis MLC

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL



The Honourable Sophie Cotsis MLC

The Hon Niall Blair MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Social Issues
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Blair,

I write to make the following submission to the Committee in relation to its current inquiry into domestic violence trends and issues in New South Wales.

Domestic violence is a horrendous crime. Victims endure not only physical injuries, but can also experience ongoing mental and emotional trauma.

While there is never an excuse for this sort of aggression, the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research has recently released a new study which shows that violence against women is strongly correlated with both financial and personal stress.

A copy of the research can be located on BOCSAR's website at www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au.

I would like to suggest that as part of the Inquiry, this study be looked at and the Committee consider proposals for addressing financial hardship and other similar causative factors as a means of helping to prevent the occurrence of domestic violence.

I also understand there are community groups – such as the Immigrant Women's Speakout Association of NSW – who are undertaking work surrounding domestic violence issues amongst recently arrived migrants. I would therefore also like to suggest that the Committee examine this issue as part of its deliberations.

If I can be of any assistance to the Committee in this or any other respect, please feel free to give my office a call on

Yours sincerely,

Sophie Cotsis

23.9.11