

PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICE

NSW Parliament • Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney 2000

Referred by:	Australian Labor Party	Proposal No:	C1589		
Date Referred:	09/03/2023	Date Published:	20/03/2023		
Proposal Title:	NSW Sexual Violence Helpline				
Cluster:	Health				

General Government Sector Impacts

	2022-23 \$'000	2023-24 \$'000	2024-25 \$'000	2025-26 \$'000	4 year Total \$'000		
Expenses (ex. depreciation)	-	-	-	-	-		
Depreciation					-		
Less: Offsets					-		
Revenue					-		
Net Operating Balance:	-	-	-	-	-		
Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-		
Capital Offsets							
Net Capital Expenditure:	-	-	-	-	-		
Net Lending/(Borrowing):	-	-	-	-	-		
Total State Sector Impacts							
Net Lending/(Borrowing):	-	-	-	-	-		

Notes and costing assumptions:

The policy proposes to provide additional funding for the NSW Sexual Violence Helpline. The proposed funding will be \$1.4 million in 2023-24 and \$924,000 annually through 2026-27, for a total of \$4.2 million.

NSW Health provides \$1.5 million annually to Full Stop Australia (previously known as "Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia") to operate the NSW Sexual Violence Helpline. This funding has been consistently renewed since 2011 through the Ministerially Approved Grants ('MAG') program of NSW Health. The Sydney Local Health District administers the award.

The policy specifies that the funding will be absorbed by NSW Health and NSW Communities and Justice. While both agencies have advised they are unable to absorb the cost for NSW Sexual Violence Helpline, the \$4.2 million is small and the PBO notes that funding may have to be diverted from other programs and/or administration to cover costs.

Notes and costing assumptions continued:

Current annual fundings

- NSW Health and the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) have provided an additional \$1,103,053 to Full Stop Australia (FSA) in 2022-23. This is in addition to the annual funding provided by NSW Health to address call attrition, where 1 in 3 calls are not being answered in Australia's domestic violence and sexual assault helpline support services.
- NSW Health also received \$1.1 million in funding for the "Support to Safety" project in 2022-2023. The project will review and assess the role of government and non-government service provision to victims of sexual assault, with a specific focus on the NSW Sexual Violence Helpline.
- The project will include analysis of client usage of helplines, state-wide coverage, duplication of roles, and effectiveness of referral processes, and will aim to inform future investments to improve responses.

Additional proposed funding by FSA

- NSW Health received a funding proposal by FSA requested a one-off funding enhancement of \$467,000 to increase service accessibility to priority populations, but further work will be required to understand if it will meaningfully improve service delivery by FSA.
- However, NSW Health advised that considerations will need to be taken to understand whether FSA is the most appropriate recipient to enhance and improve sexual assault responsibilities for priority populations.

Additional funding

• NSW Health has provided the below funding profile for the additional \$1.4 million in 2023-24 and \$924,000 annually for 2026-27.

COSTING INFORMATION	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27 and later				
Current NSW Government funding for NSW Sexual Violence Helpline									
NSW Health MAG Program Grant	1,546,500	1,546,500	1,546,500	1,546,500	1,546,500				
Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence National Partnership Agreement	1,103,053	-	-	-	-				
Total current funding	2,649,553	1,546,500	1,546,500	1,546,500	1,546,500				
New proposed additional funding*									
Expenses									
NSW Sexual Violence Helpline (\$)		924,000	924,000	924,000	924,000				
Priority population initiatives (\$)		474,000							
Total additional counselling hours**		15,744	15,744	15,744	15,744				
Hours per 25 additional counsellors***		630	630	630	630				
Total new proposed funding	-	1,398,000	924,000	924,000	924,000				
TOTAL IF INVESTMENT APPROVED	2,649,553	2,946,500	2,470,500	2,470,500	2,470,500				

Note that employee related expenses are included as counselling hours. No capital expenditure or on-costs to agencies is anticipated.

** Note that counselling hours are costed at \$58.69 per hour.

*** Note that if Full Stop Australia engaged 25 new counsellors through new investment, on average, each counsellor would be employed to deliver 630 counselling hours a year, or approximately 12 hours per week.