

The Hon. Gabrielle Upton, MBA, BA, LLB MP  
Minister for Family and Community Services  
330 New South Head Road  
DOUBLE BAY NSW 2028

18 June, 2014

Dear Minister,

It was very pleasing to see in the FACS media release of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2014 that you have announced a restoration of funding to the inner city. As we are concerned about the well-being of people who live in our inner city community, the Glebe Society wishes to commend this action.

Where the *Going Home Staying Home* reforms previously allocated just \$1.1million to assist 505 women per year, the announcement indicating that *'the specialist women's service in the inner city will receive almost three times its original budget'* provides us some reassurance that services to women will be maintained. However as Glebe is the home of several small women's services such as *Elsie*, the women and their children's refuge from domestic violence, and *Detour House*, a specialist homeless service for women affected by drug and alcohol dependence, the way in which these funds are allocated to services is of concern.

It is understood that prior to Friday's announcement as many as 20 women and girls 's services, including Detour House (Glebe), B Miles Supported Accommodation, Stepping Out and Young People's Refuge (Leichhardt), Jean's Place, Community Restorative Centre Women's Program and Delores Single Women's Refuge were likely to be closed by 30<sup>th</sup> June. Although you are *'establishing a Service Support Fund so that eligible small to medium sized service providers that are not successful in the tender process can apply for 18 months additional funding'* we still hold concerns that our local service providers may be at risk of closure if they are not specifically supported.

These providers have a very long term and successful record of service provision to women and their children in our local area. Therefore Minister, we would like to urge you to ensure that they are continued.

Professor John Gray, PhD, MEdAdmin, GDipEd, BBus  
President