Dear Editor,

Minister Goward speaks of the need to ‘to put much more effort into prevention’ of violence against women ([*Goward: I’ll shift strategy to prevention, April 2*](http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/new-antidomestic-violence-minister-pru-goward-highlights-prevention-20150401-1mcvt3.html)*)*.  This must come in the way of additional funding and not at the expense of vital specialist services which support women experiencing domestic violence. Domestic violence is rarely a one off incident but rather a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour. Women’s refugees and other specialist domestic violence services play a vital role in keeping women experiencing domestic violence safe.  It is commonly understood that there must be adequate and sustainable investment in primary prevention, early intervention and service responses.  *A Safer State*, the policy of the NSW Women's Alliance and Men's Behaviour Change Network, recommends at a minimum a further investment of $100 million over the next 3 years.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Campbell

Executive Officer

Women’s Legal Services NSW