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**Proper resourcing of NSW domestic and family violence reforms essential for success**

Women’s Legal Services NSW welcomes the NSW Government taking action to end domestic and family violence in NSW through its release of its framework for reform: *It Stops Here.*

A key part of the reforms includes a central point to which victims of domestic and family violence will be referred so they receive the support they need in a co-ordinated way. This will be launched in two sites – Waverly and Orange – and the Government has acknowledged the importance of evaluating the effectiveness of the reforms, including for any unintended consequences.

‘Several reports have recommended the need for a more integrated and better co-ordinated response to domestic and family violence in NSW, but this requires proper resourcing and ongoing independent evaluation of the reforms. It is not yet clear how the reforms will be funded beyond the two launch sites’, says Janet Loughman, Principal Solicitor of Women’s Legal Services NSW.

‘Developing an effective and independent evaluation framework is also essential’, says Ms Loughman.

‘More detail is also required about the timeliness of support for victims of domestic and family violence if information is to be shared first with Victims Services and then with a local co-ordination point before a victim of violence is contacted’, says Ms Loughman.

‘We look forward to ongoing consultations about information sharing protocols to fully understand the circumstances in which information about victims will be shared without consent and how the information will be managed’, says Ms Loughman.

‘It is also essential that victims of violence are able to be involved in safety action meetings which will be attended by government and non-government agencies to respond to victims who are at serious threat of escalating violence’, says Ms Loughman.

Consultations on the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Reforms began in September 2012. Women’s Legal Services NSW made a [submission](http://www.womenslegalnsw.asn.au/downloads/law-reform/2013WLSNSW_NSWDFVFramework_sub_290713.pdf) in response to the consultation documents.

**Media contact: Liz Snell or Janet Loughman Ph (02) 8745 6900**

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Women’s Legal Services NSW is a community legal centre that aims to achieve access to justice and a just legal system for women in NSW. We seek to promote women’s human rights, redress inequalities experienced by women and to foster legal and social change through strategic legal services, community development, community legal education and law and policy reform work.