

The Hon. Jodie Harrison, MP

GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

RE: Achievements of NSW NGO community women's health sector

Dear Ms Harrison,

Women's Health NSW is the peak body for 21 non-government community-based women's health centres in New South Wales (NSW). As you are aware, we are all funded by a Ministerial Approved Grant called the *Women's Health Program*. In the 2023/2024 state budget the NSW Government saw fit to make a \$34.3 million enhancement to our core funding spread across four years. This included \$369,500 to our service to support capacity-building activities for the sector. We are writing to you today to thank you, as our Minister for Women, for these monies, and let you know about some of the achievements it has made possible.

As a peak body we were able to engage a capacity building team, taking our full time equivalent from 1.9 FTE (2022/2023) to 5.1 FTE (2024/2025). This also enabled us to retain key staff responsible for rolling out a two-year project (funded by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice) that improved sector capacity to identify and respond to women who had experienced non-fatal strangulation or engaged in sexual choking.

By retaining knowledge and skill within the women's health sector we were able to build upon these project outcomes to see:

- The NSW women's health model of practice [recognised by the Queensland Law Reform Commission](#) as a model for addressing strangulation in that state.
- An article for general practitioners on the [harmful effects of sexual choking](#) published in *The BMJ*, a globally recognised medical journal owned by the British Medical Association (BMA).
- Our harm reduction work on sexual choking recognised by the key American researcher in this field, Professor Debby Herbenick, [as one of only four examples worldwide](#), with a recommendation for further evaluation.

These longer-term achievements were only made possible by your increase to our core funding allowing us to retain key staff beyond the short-term length of the initial project funding.

Should you wish to know more I can be reached by phone on 0414 780 417 or by email at ceo@whnsw.asn.au.

Regards,



Denele Crozier AM
Chief Executive Officer
Women's Health NSW