

The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP

PO Box 6022

House of Representatives

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia is world-leading in addressing non-fatal strangulation and sexual choking

Dear Ms Plibersek,

Women's Health NSW is the peak body for 21 non-government community-based women's health centres in New South Wales (NSW). We are funded by a Ministerial Approved Grant called the *Women's Health Program*. In the 2023/2024 state budget the NSW Government recognised the importance of the work we undertake as a sector by making a \$34.3 million enhancement to our core funding spread across four years.

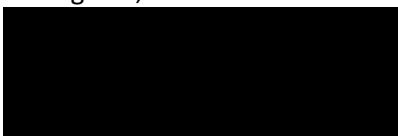
For the last two years we were funded by the Australian Government and the NSW Government under the [NSW Sexual Violence Project Fund](#) to undertake a project that improved sector capacity to identify and respond to women who had experienced non-fatal strangulation or engaged in sexual choking. After hearing your keynote address at the 5th World Conference of Women's Shelters, where you paid particular attention to non-fatal strangulation and sexual choking, we wanted to tell you about some of the key outcomes of that project:

- Having the NSW women's health model of practice [recognised by the Queensland Law Reform Commission](#) as a model for addressing strangulation in that state.
- Getting 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).
- Seeing our harm reduction work on sexual choking publicly 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.

Taken together these achievements contribute to Australia being world-leading in the field of non-fatal strangulation and sexual choking.

I would be happy tell you more about the work undertaken by NSW's non-government community women's health sector in these areas. 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