



**Nicola Roxon MP**  
Shadow Attorney-General  
Shadow Minister Assisting the Leader on the  
Status of Women

**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Member for Newcastle

**Giovanna Kozary**  
Labor Candidate for Paterson

24 August 2004

## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN – PREVENTION IS THE ONLY LONG TERM CURE**

Violence against women is a major problem in the community affecting up to 1 in 4 Australian women. It must not be tolerated, it must be stopped.

Nicola Roxon, Shadow Attorney-General and Shadow Minister Assisting the Leader on the Status of Women, Sharon Grierson, Member for Newcastle, and Giovanna Kozary, Labor Candidate for Paterson, today met with the *Newcastle Sexual Assault Service* to hear first hand the impact of violence on women and children in our community.

The *Newcastle Sexual Assault Service*, based at Wallsend, provides outreach services at Belmont, Newcastle, Raymond Terrace, Toronto and Port Stephens. Sadly this is an essential service for far too many women and children in our community.

During the last two years, 232 adults and 142 children made initial presentations to the *Newcastle Sexual Assault Service*. Another 128 were referred to the service from elsewhere or returned for ongoing counselling and support, while another 1,132 phoned the 24-hour crisis service.

Last year more than 18,000 Australian women reported sexual assaults to the police nationally, showing a 10% increase on the previous year.

Today's meeting with the *Newcastle Sexual Assault Service* highlighted the need for strong national leadership to address the cycle of violence and abuse and ensure that prevention of violence is given a higher priority

As part of *Labor's Better Deal for Australian Women*, Labor has outlined a plan to ensure that stopping violence against women is made a top priority. Labor's plan shifts the national focus from a reactive crisis response to one squarely targeted on prevention and underlines the importance of giving Australian women a real voice when it comes to developing ways to stop violence.

Prevention is the only long term cure.

Labor's plan to better protect women from violence and exploitation is attached. For a full copy of the policy *Choice and Opportunity: Labor's Better Deal for Australian Women* go to: [www.alp.org.au/media/0704/20007988.html](http://www.alp.org.au/media/0704/20007988.html)