

ERO Supplementation Reduction – Impacts on a Regional DFV Specialist Service

Liberty Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Services in the Port Macquarie-Hastings region of NSW will receive a \$27,151.26 per annum reduction in funding because of the diminished ERO component from the Federal Government. This equates to approximately 4% of our total SHS funding of \$680,419.60.

Liberty has already supported 433 women and children this year through our SHS funded programs, almost double our contracted and funded client numbers of 220.

With no increase in base funding in six years (beyond the small amount of CPI passed on each year) this reduction in ERO funding will be significant.

This loss of funding will equate to a front-line staff cut of 0.35 Full Time Equivalent. This equals the loss of one of our part time Domestic and Family Violence Specialists.

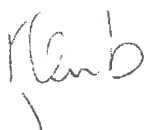
Based on current workload, this will mean a reduction in case management of 75 clients per year.

With ever-increasing operating expenses, increase in staff wages (the ERO has created a yearly increase in employee costs, and these costs must be met year on year, long after the ERO funding supplement has finished), Liberty is already depending on the generosity of philanthropy, corporate and community financial donations to help deliver the essential services that were once covered by SHS funding.

This community funding should be providing supplementary services and extension work beyond that which our core funding should provide for.

This reduction in SHS funding comes at a time when our service and our workers are already stretched, as we respond to the increased incidence, severity and complexity of domestic violence following drought, bushfires and COVID-19, which continue to impact families in our regional communities.

Yours sincerely



Kelly Lamb
CEO