



Gabrielle Upton
Attorney General

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT BOOSTS FUNDING FOR MALE SURVIVORS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Australia's only dedicated national support and advocacy charity for adult male survivors of child sexual abuse has received a \$517,000 funding boost from the NSW Government, Attorney General Gabrielle Upton today announced.

Ms Upton said the Survivors & Mates Support Network (SAMSN) plays a critical role for men and their families to heal and recover from the devastating impact of child sexual abuse.

"The NSW Government is proud to support SAMSN's crucial work to help thousands of men and their families across NSW take brave steps to recovery," Ms Upton said.

"The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse revealed the impact of abuse on men, who were represented in over 60 per cent of personal sessions.

"This investment means SAMSN can continue to treat survivors with care and compassion in 2016, and reflects the NSW Government's commitment to ensure victims of abuse get the help they need, when they need it."

SAMSN delivers workshops for men and their families with health professionals at various locations across NSW. It also connects survivors with specialist psychologists and social workers, and offers practical assistance during recovery.

SAMSN offers support during police investigations and court appearances, and works closely with NSW Victims Services to assist men seeking counselling, financial assistance or recognition payments.

Co-founders Shane McNamara and Craig Hughes-Cashmore, both survivors of abuse, established SAMSN in 2010 in recognition of a lack of specialist services available for men in Australia.

Mr McNamara said SAMSN's groups and workshops focus on helping men and families rebuild their lives and restore hope.

"We have thrived on the simple message of 'mates supporting mates,'" he said.

“The NSW Government's investment in SAMSN now means we can help more survivors each and every day.”

Mr Hughes-Cashmore said it also sends a strong message the NSW Government understands the needs of survivors and their families and is firmly committed to addressing these needs.

"We thank the NSW Government and the Attorney General for their vital support of our work," he said.

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