

May 2005.

State Government to support RSVP.

Member for Port Jackson, Sandra Nori, announced that ***“The NSW Government had awarded a grant of \$15,000, to a **Response to Sexual Violence Project (RSVP)** to the **Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC)** under the **Victims of Violent Crimes Grants Program.***”**

The Mental Health Coordinating Council is the peak body for over 150 non-government organisations working for mental health throughout NSW. Their member organisations specialise in the provision of services and support for people with mental health disability.

Ms Nori said *“ this grant will support the Mental Health Coordinating Council in the research and development of a ‘best practice’ model for access and service delivery to adult survivors of sexual assault, particularly for those from marginalised groups who experience complex mental health problems and substance abuse.”*

The Mental Health Coordinating Council RSVP Working Group have identified the urgent need to focus on barriers to access and equity with regard to treatment and services for adult survivors of child sexual assault, and the necessity for collaboration between agencies such as mental health, sexual assault, drug and alcohol, housing, counselling, family and forensic services.

The Mental Health Coordinating Council said *“the project will develop a framework contributing to the development of sustainable collaborative services and a State-wide information data base for service providers and users.”*

Over \$320,000 has been allocated for 2004 – 2005 to 18 organisations across NSW including the Mental Health Coordinating Council under the Victims of Violent Crimes Grants Program (VOVCGP) an initiative established in 1998 by Premier Bob Carr, which has continued to support community based organisations assisting victims of crime. These grants are funded through the profitability of NSW prison industries employing inmates.

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