

## **Vanessa Goodwin MLC**

Shadow Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

Saturday 26 September, 2009

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### **Disappointment over victims of crime cut**

The Government's decision to stop funding Lifeline to provide a counselling service to victims of crime in the south and north-west is incredibly disappointing.

The fact that the Attorney-General wouldn't even be up front and honest with Lifeline about her intentions for victims of crime services shows how uncaring this tired, 11 year old Government has become.

Can the Government guarantee that it will deliver victims of crime services to the same standard as Lifeline, or will the quality of service deteriorate under this new arrangement? This is a sign that the Government's priorities are becoming increasingly warped and out of touch with what Tasmanians need and expect.

The number of victims receiving support has been increasing steadily, from 1,165 in 2003-04 to 1,405 in 2007-08. Now, instead of having a dedicated, caring organisation providing vital support, crime victims in southern and north-west Tasmania will be forced to deal with the Government for compassion and support.

Lifeline has a proud history of providing excellent services to some of the most vulnerable people in our community and the Attorney-General's decision is a slap in the face to one of the most trusted organisations in Tasmania.

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For further information or comment please call Brad Nowland – 0439 614 893