

Reinstatement of funding for vulnerable children, women & families in NSW via the Dalwood Spilstead Service

To the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales.

This petition of citizens of NSW brings to the attention of the House that:

- Since 1978, the Dalwood Spilstead Service (**DSS**) in Seaforth NSW has provided an internationally recognised health, education and support service for vulnerable and at-risk families in the Northern Sydney region. This “one-stop-shop” provides the whole family unit with services including child and adult assessment, counselling, parenting and life skills, and a therapeutic pre-school. This intervention model for parents and children under **one** service umbrella, from **one** team is **fundamental** when helping families who are experiencing challenges such as family violence, trauma, and poverty.
- The service helps 150 children/year from approximately 90 families.
- The DSS now faces a funding crisis as the Department of Communities and Justice has withdrawn funding arrangements, and the Northern Sydney Local Health District will only cover the shortfall until June 2025. This is despite the proven success of the DSS model which sees 83% of the families referred to DSS successfully complete its program, compared to the state average of 33%.
- **Without ongoing permanent funding, the Service will no longer be viable** and DSS will be unable to accept referrals of vulnerable families.

The undersigned petitioners therefore ask the Legislative Assembly to:

1. Immediately reinstate secure long term ongoing funding for the Dalwood Spilstead Service to ensure that at-risk families can continue to access this service.
2. Rollout the highly successful Dalwood Spilstead model across NSW so that more families can access this evidence-based, successful, and cost-effective service.

	Name	Address (Mandatory)	Email (Optional – to receive occasional email updates)	Signature
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

When you have completed collecting signatures please mail original to: Save the Dalwood Spilstead service, P O Box 307, Forestville 2087