



# Domestic violence campaign criticised

By state political writer  
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A \$6 MILLION campaign urging women in violent relationships to seek help will be launched today amid criticism the funds should have gone towards crisis accommodation.

The Federal Government initiative will include regular television, cinema and magazine advertisements.

Information on where to get help will also be posted at universities, shopping centres and in washrooms.

The campaign is a relaunch of a similar one undertaken last year, which triggered 44,000 calls to the Government helpline.

But the Federal Opposition has described the initiative as madness when women who do seek help are being turned away due to a lack of available crisis accommodation.

The Government revealed in Senate estimates earlier this year that as many as 300 people each day are being turned away from crisis accommodation.

Opposition women's affairs spokeswoman Tanya Plibersek said almost 20 per cent of people seeking accommodation were victims of domestic violence.

"It is madness to run an advertising campaign asking women to get help when many of them are going to be turned away," she said. Catherine Gander, the NSW Women's Refuge Resource Centre's executive officer, said 385 women and 653 children had been turned away since March because of a lack of beds.

"If we had the beds, the campaign would be a good idea," she said.

"The refuges are full — we just do not have the resources."

A spokeswoman for Family and Community Services Minister Kay Patterson said funding for supported accommodation had been increased.



Unrealistic: A campaign poster