

Victim pleads for funds

A FAMILY violence victim has joined Manningham welfare workers in their call for more government funding for counselling and support services in the municipality.

Speaking at a family violence forum in Doncaster on Friday, single-mother Sue said the "words and promises" of politicians were not enough.

"Manningham needs your money and lots of it ... I hate to think where we [myself and my children] would be if I didn't have the opportunity to change my life through various [family violence support] agencies."

Sue, a survivor of two abusive relationships, sought solace for herself and her children at a refuge. She later joined the Anglicare Family Violence Program in Lilydale where, she said, she transformed from an "incoherent victim to a thriving survivor".

Sue said it was fortunate the program was based close by as she could not have met the cost of travelling to another municipality.

There are no support groups based in Manningham for men with relationship problems.

Doncare runs two support programs for women but these do not have permanent funding.

The Manningham Family Violence Reference Group organised the forum and brought together groups involved in the resolution of family violence, including police, welfare workers and MPs.

Guest speakers included Men-



zies federal Liberal MP Kevin Andrews, Doncaster state Liberal MP Victor Pertou, Sergeant Gerry Brady of Doncaster

police, and Melbourne Magistrates Court supervising magistrate Ann Goldsbrough.

Lauren Birch

Courageous story

Cherilyn speaks out about her experiences with family violence.

Picture:
Darren Howe