

Funding boost

Newtown Neighbourhood Centre to receive \$2 million

BY SARAH MILLS

The heartbeat of Newtown - the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre - will receive more than \$80,000 in State Government funding.

The funding has been given out to non-government organisations that work with local vulnerable families and disadvantaged groups.

Executive Officer of Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, Lisa Burns, said the new funding was extremely helpful and would go towards delivering a project or initiative identified by the local community to address a real local need.

"We will let the community identify an important issue and how best to address it," Ms Burns said.

"It could be for a training program, a celebratory event or a campaign.

"In the past we've facilitated groups for people with mental illness who wanted a safe place to meet and socialise, we've run training for volunteers to become leaders and we've initiated a campaign to make Newtown Station accessible.

"The funding will go towards building a more resilient and inclusive community, which is what our Neighbourhood Centre is all about."

Over the next year, community and neighbourhood centres in the Marrickville area will receive close to \$2 million in existing and new funding to further their work with struggling families and other vulnerable groups.

Member for Marrickville, Carmel Tebbutt, who announced the boost earlier this week, said the funding would help



Linda Burney, Lisa Burns and Carmel Tebbutt.

strengthen the community, reducing inequality and disadvantage.

"These centres are usually the first port of call for the unemployed, homeless, mentally ill, women fleeing domestic violence, refugees, socially isolated, young/single struggling parents, elderly and disabled," Ms Tebbutt said.