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MEDIA

BATTLE BOOST

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\$1.4m will help

By KIRSTY JAGGER

DISADVANTAGED and marginalised members of the community will benefit from a \$1.4 million funding boost to Inner West support services.

The funds come as part of a \$21.2 million statewide funding injection that the Community Services Minister and State MP for Canterbury Linda Burney announced on Wednesday at the Metro Migrant Resource Centre in Canterbury.

"Over the next three years the Inner West will be receiving a total of \$1,448,000," she said.

As three of the 36 neighbourhood and community centres across NSW sharing in \$10 million of extra funding, the Metro Migrant Resource Centre will receive \$619,500 and Canterbury City Community Centre and Newtown Neighbourhood Centre will receive \$252,100 each.

Executive officer of the Metro Migrant Resource Centre, Violet Roumeliotis, said the funding would enable the service to extend its support services to disadvantaged people in the Inner West.

"Our service has the expertise and this funding now makes it possible for us to help people of all walks of life and backgrounds who may be facing hardship, social isolation or in need of information and referrals," she said.

Executive officer of Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, Lisa Burns, said the funding was a "real win for the community".

"This funding is really exciting for us because it will help us meet the real needs of this community with a range of projects through which we hope to build an inclusive and resilient community," she said.

CatholicCare will also receive \$324,000 as one of the 82 non-government organisations sharing \$11.2 million of additional funding for *Keep Them Safe*, the NSW Government's child protection reform program.