



Women's Domestic Violence
Court Advocacy Service Network Inc

Media Release

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Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service to act as Local Coordination Points in a new approach to respond to domestic violence in NSW

Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service NSW Inc (WDVCAS NSW) acknowledges the new approach to domestic violence outlined in the *It Stops Here: Domestic and Family Violence Framework* announced by the Minister for Women Pru Goward on 16 February 2014. WDVCAS NSW welcomes the government's decision for WDVCAS to act as the Local Coordination Point for all women and children victims of domestic violence, beginning with the two launch sites in Orange and Waverley.

"We acknowledge this is an important and historic opportunity for WDVCAS to act as the Local Coordination Point in the new integrated response to domestic violence. We will draw on our direct experience of over 18 years working with the police and service providers to ensure the safety and best interests of the victims are the heart of the new approach", says WDVCAS NSW Executive Officer, Helen Brereton.

WDVCAS NSW Inc believes that bringing together representatives from both government and non-government agencies to share information and develop coordinated action plans provides an important opportunity to greatly improve victim safety and reduce re-victimisation across NSW.

"WDVCAS NSW believes the development of the proposed integrated service system is critical to improving the safety and wellbeing of victims of domestic violence. Our focus will be on supporting and empowering women and their children who are living with the fear and trauma of domestic violence on a daily basis", says WDVCAS NSW Executive Officer, Helen Brereton.

About WDVCAS NSW

WDVCAS NSW Inc is the peak body for women and their children who are experiencing domestic violence who require legal protection from the courts. WDVCAS NSW is an incorporated association comprising representatives from 28 individual WDVCAS¹ that operate in 112 local courts throughout metropolitan, regional and rural New South Wales. In 2011/2012, the 28 WDVCAS provided 76,473 services to 27,526 clients across NSW. The WDVCAS made a total of 44,642 referrals, and assisted 3,168 Aboriginal clients and 5,123 culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) clients. WDVCAS NSW Inc is funded by Legal Aid NSW through the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program.

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¹ Blue Mountains, Burwood, Central Coast, Central West, Far South Coast, Far West, Hunter, Hunter Valley, Illawarra, Macarthur, Macquarie, Mid-North Coast, New England, North Coast, North West, North West Sydney, Northern Rivers, Northern Sydney, Riverina, South Coast, South Eastern, South West Sydney, Southern, Southern Sydney, Sydney, Wagga Wagga, Western, Western Sydney