

Media Release
24 November 2020

Help for Women caught in Australia Specialist Migrant Domestic Violence Service Now Available

SydWest Multicultural Services is pleased to announce their new service to help women escaping domestic violence: the **Specialist Migrant Domestic Violence Project**.

The Specialist Migrant Domestic Violence project is funded by Multicultural NSW through the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant for Vulnerable Temporary Visa Holders and Special Migrant and Settlement NGOs stream.

It offers case management support to women from refugee and migrant background (and their children) who are residing in the Blacktown LGA and are fleeing Domestic and Family Violence. It can also provide for specific practical needs, such as transport and food. The Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) will also be used as required.

The project will target holders of the following visa categories: Temporary working visa, Provisional visa, Partners, and/or Prospective marriage visa, Bridging visa. Until now, women holding these visa categories were not eligible for funded assistance. However, with COVID-19 meaning they have remained in Australia, this service aims to meet their immediate needs.

There has been an increase in disclosing Domestic and Family Violence by women in the Blacktown LGA to caseworkers during the COVID -19 pandemic. The increase in reporting during this period is consistent with reports across the domestic violence service space. Data obtained from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research indicated a 38.7% spike in reporting domestic assaults in the Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury region 24 months leading to March 2020 (June 2020). Blacktown Local Government Area recorded 2,220 domestic assaults respectively during this period.

The Specialist Migrant Domestic Violence project is being run by an experienced part-time case manager.

STATEMENT ENDS /

For further information or to arrange an interview, contact Vikki Hine, Public Affairs & Communications, SydWest Multicultural Services on vikki.hine@sydwestms.org.au or 9621 6633.

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SydWest Multicultural Services

Connecting cultures. Building community.

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SydWest Multicultural Services is a leading organisation for all cultural diversity issues responding to community needs and opportunities. Established more than 35 years ago, SydWest provides a range of services to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) individuals and communities services to assist with settling and living productive and independent lives in the community. We offer flexible and integrated service models across the life course of refugees and migrants, supporting the self-determination and empowerment of our diverse communities. SydWest is an innovative employer of choice, with passionate, qualified and experienced bilingual and bicultural staff who are sensitive to the languages and cultures of the communities we represent. With locations in Blacktown, Mt Druitt, Penrith and Rouse Hill, we cover all matters of cultural diversity in the region.

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