

Media Release
8 March 2022

Time to #breakthebias this International Women's Day

International Women's Day 2022 *Time to #breakthebias*

SydWest Multicultural Services is proud to be supporting International Women's Day to #breakthebias.

SydWest was pleased to host our International Women's Day Event last week at the Blacktown Arts Centre, where our program of inspirational women brought forward the power behind personal stories.

Speaking to the theme #BreaktheBias this International Women's Day, guest speaker Amani Haydar, addressed areas that pose as existing challenges today and how stereotypes can hinder quick recognition to prevent and overcome domestic violence.

SydWest Multicultural Services shared reviews of the National Draft Plan to end violence against women and children, advocating for consideration to culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

'Culturally appropriate services are important in protecting and supporting victim survivors of domestic violence – this International Women's Day, we reflect upon how culture, language and religious contexts need to be considered. In everything we do, we work to address and challenge barriers that exist for women today, particularly for women of colour and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds,' said Elfa Moraitakis, CEO of SydWest Multicultural Services.

Our [post-event video](#) provides a highlight of the evening including Sarah Macdonald of ABC Radio Sydney, Flamenco Red led by Annalouise Paul and Subtle Mullets – all strong women following their passions in their respective fields.

Today, it is an opportunity to reflect on our achievements to date and to spotlight continued issues and call for change. And to work together to achieve real, systemic change for all women, regardless of colour or background.

We want to be part of the change that breaks the bias against women, regardless of colour, religion and cultural background, and challenge stereotypes around domestic violence and victim survivors. This International Women's Day we encourage all people to engage in conversations to change the narrative to effectively #breakthebias.

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STATEMENT ENDS /

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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.