

Media Release

Andrew Broad

Member for Mallee

Monday, 28 September 2015

MALLEE TO BENEFIT FROM NEW SPECIALISED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNITS

The Member for Mallee, Andrew Broad, has warmly welcomed the latest Government initiatives to address family violence. Mr. Broad said that after another horror week for women in Australia, it's vital to confront the issue of domestic violence head on and after much lobbying he has ensured that Mildura, which has alarming family violence rates, is one of the areas chosen to trial a specialised domestic violence unit.

"Along with the National Intervention Orders, I've been working very hard to secure a trial unit in our region, which will provide an integrated approach to supporting victims of family violence.

"By combining a number of services in a single location, victims can receive consistent, local advice and support. For women living in regional and remote areas, this is particularly important, where the need to travel can be a barrier to gaining assistance.

"Our region, sadly, is a family violence hotspot and I think it's crucial that we develop a dedicated domestic violence service and that we ensure we have highly trained frontline staff who can respond appropriately to women and children who are at risk," Mr. Broad said.

The specialised unit planned for Mildura will be one of many to be established across rural and regional Australia and will be funded through a \$15 million allocation, as part of the new \$100 million Women's Safety Package.

Whilst the announcement on who the chosen service provider will be is still pending, Mr. Broad recognised the advocacy of Mallee Family Care's Director of Community Services and Manager of Murray Mallee Community Legal Service, Lisa-Maree Stevens, saying the announcement that the Mallee will be hosting one of the new units is in no small way due to her hard work.

"Ms. Stevens has been outstanding in her efforts and we have worked well together, in getting the message out about the needs of this region.

"The specialised domestic violence unit will change lives in Mildura and it just might save some lives too."

It is anticipated that the development of the units will begin immediately.

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