

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

28 October 2016

Victim Support Service welcomes criminalisation of revenge porn in South Australia

KEY POINTS

- Victim Support Service (VSS) has welcomed new laws that criminalise threats to distribute intimate images of a person without their consent.
- The *Summary Offences (Filming and Sexting) Act 2016* was passed by the South Australian Parliament in September, with the new laws coming in to effect today.
- VSS is calling for the South Australian Government to educate the people who work with victims of revenge porn to ensure victims are aware of the new laws and the support services available to them.

Victim Support Service (VSS) has today welcomed new laws that criminalise threats to distribute intimate images of a person without their consent.

The *Summary Offences (Filming and Sexting) Act 2016* was passed by the South Australian Parliament in September, with the new laws coming in to effect today.

VSS Quality and Research Manager Katherine McLachlan said victims and their advocates welcomed stronger penalties to deter perpetrators from threatening to distribute intimate images of their current or ex-partner without their consent.

"The new laws will send a strong message that revenge porn is a crime and perpetrators will be held accountable for the devastating harm they cause to victims," said Ms McLachlan.

"The next step for the South Australian Government will be to educate the people who work with victims of revenge porn to ensure victims are aware of the new laws and the support services available to them."

VSS provides free information and support to people impacted by crime and abuse in South Australia. Call the VSS Helpdesk on 1800 842 846 or visit www.victisma.org/get-help.

ENDS

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Victoria Laughton

1800 842 846 or 0419 668 437

victorial@victimsa.org

ABOUT VSS

Victim Support Service (VSS) is a statewide, independent not-for-profit organisation in South Australia that has been providing support to people affected by crime and family/domestic abuse since 1979. Our specialist teams provide practical and therapeutic support to help people to cope and recover from the effects of crime. Our services are free and available to any adult in SA, whether or not the crime has been reported and regardless of when it happened.

With almost 40 years' experience, we know the impact that crime has on people's lives and what it takes to help them get their lives back on track. We're proud to serve victims and witnesses in South Australia by campaigning for their rights and helping to improve their experiences of the criminal justice system.

We offer people who have been affected by crime:

Safety

- Safety assessments and home security upgrades
- Legal advice and representation regarding Intervention Orders
- Advice and representation in tenancy matters arising from family and domestic abuse

Support

- Information and referrals through our Helpdesk on 1800 VICTIM (842846)
- Supportive and therapeutic counselling
- Face-to-face, telephone and outreach services
- Support for co-victims of homicide
- Support services funded by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
- Fact sheets and brochures
- Resource Centre

Justice

- Support to navigate the criminal justice system, including Court Companions
- Information and assistance with Victims of Crime Compensation
- An amplified voice through our research, advocacy, media and training.
- Assistance with Victim Impact Statements

For more information, go to www.victimsa.org.