

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

31 October 2016

State Government draws on Victims of Crime Fund to extend Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service

KEY POINTS

- Victim Support Service (VSS) has welcomed the State Government's decision to double funding for the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service.
- VSS provides the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service to help women get the legal support and practical assistance they need to protect themselves and their children.
- The State Government's announcement follows the COAG National Summit on Preventing Violence Against Women and their Children in Brisbane last week.

Victim Support Service (VSS) has welcomed the State Government's decision to draw funding from the Victims of Crime Fund to increase its financial contribution to the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service.

VSS delivers the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service to women who have experienced domestic abuse and need assistance to navigate legal matters regarding intervention orders and tenancy disputes.

VSS Chief Executive Julian Roffe said VSS helped over 450 women to navigate the legal process during 2015-16.

"VSS welcomes the State Government's decision to double the budget for our Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service," Mr Roffe said.

"VSS has been responding to unprecedented demand for legal assistance from victims of domestic abuse and we anticipate that demand will continue to grow as more women become aware of the support services available to them to navigate their way through the Courts."

The State Government's announcement follows the COAG National Summit on Preventing Violence Against Women and their Children in Brisbane last week.

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.victimsa.org/get-help.

ENDS

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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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.

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