

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Victim Support Service reports growth in number of victims seeking domestic abuse support services in South Australia

Service statistics released by Victim Support Service (VSS) show demand for legal assistance and practical support from victims of domestic abuse is growing.

VSS provides free practical and therapeutic support to help people rebuild their lives after the devastating impact of domestic abuse.

VSS Deputy Chief Executive Jodie Sloan said public awareness campaigns, such as White Ribbon, played an integral role in encouraging victims of domestic abuse to seek support.

"VSS has been around for nearly 40 years, so we know the devastating impact domestic abuse has on victims and their families. We also know what it takes to help people rebuild their lives and recover from trauma," Ms Sloan said.

"VSS delivers a comprehensive range of domestic abuse support services to victims and survivors."

"Our Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service provides free legal assistance to women who have experienced domestic abuse."

"Last financial year VSS provided over 450 women who had experienced domestic abuse with free legal assistance to regarding intervention orders and tenancy disputes."

VSS also recorded an increase in demand for its Staying Home Staying Safe program which provides free home security upgrades and personal safety planning to women who have experienced domestic abuse.

"Through our award-winning Staying Home Staying Safe program, VSS improved the home security and personal safety of 1284 women last financial year."

Ms Sloan said VSS anticipates demand for domestic abuse support services will continue to grow in the year to come as more women become aware of the programs delivered by VSS thanks to the success of public awareness campaigns led by White Ribbon.

"White Ribbon Day reminds the community to keep the conversation going about domestic abuse and the support services available to victims and their families."

Anyone impacted by domestic abuse can call the Victim Helpdesk on 1800 VICTIM (1800 842846) or visit www.victimsa.org for free information and support.

MEDIA CONTACT

Ms Jodie Sloan is available for interview. To arrange an interview or for more information, please contact:

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Victim Support Service

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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 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 South Australia, whether or not the crime has been reported and regardless of when it happened.