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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Success of Victim Support Service's Staying Home, Staying Safe program recognised at 2015 Australian Crime & Violence Prevention Awards

Today Victim Support Service (VSS) was presented with a State Merit Award at the annual Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards in Canberra.

The award recognises the success of VSS' Staying Home, Staying Safe program in reducing and preventing violence against women affected by family and domestic abuse.

VSS Chief Executive Julian Roffe says the Staying Home, Staying Safe program has helped to improve the safety of almost 3000 women in South Australia.

The program is funded as an initiative under the Federal National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH).

"VSS' Staying Home, Staying Safe program provides women with the practical support they need to improve their safety at home and reduce their risk of homelessness," Mr Roffe said.

"Our Staying Home, Staying Safe caseworkers visit women at their homes to provide a free home security audit, upgrade, safety planning assistance, and referrals to our other services as needed."

Mr Roffe said demand for the program shows no signs of slowing down.

"In 2014-15, we recorded 1020 Staying Home, Staying Safe client contacts. In 2013-14, we recorded 677 client contacts. This means that demand for the program has increased by 50% in the last year."

"The success of the Staying Home, Staying Safe program shows that there is huge demand for practical support for victims of family and domestic violence."

To find out more about the Staying Home, Staying Safe program, call the Victim Helpline on 1800 VICTIM (1800 842 846) or visit www.victimsa.org.

Twitter: @VictimSSsa



FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES AND INTERVIEWS CONTACT:

Victoria Laughton
Victim Support Service
Mob: 0419 668 437
Email: victorial@victimsa.org

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