

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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'Grand designs' to help children recover from family and domestic abuse

KEY POINTS

- Children need to feel safe to recover from family and domestic abuse.
- Victim Support Service's Safely Together Program to provide bedroom makeovers and counselling to help children recover from family and domestic abuse.
- The Safely Together Program is funded by the Attorney-General's Department (SA) under the Crime Prevention and Community Safety Grants.

Children need to feel safe to recover from family and domestic abuse.

'MySafePlace' is a key component of the Safely Together Program, a new service for children who have experienced family and domestic abuse.

VSS Chief Executive Julian Roffe said MySafePlace turns children's dream bedroom designs into a reality, helping them to feel safe and secure in their own home and support their recovery from family and domestic abuse.

"These bedroom makeovers are much more than a TV 'feel-good' renovation – they will make a lasting difference in the lives of many children and families.

"Since 2011 our Staying Home, Staying Safe (SHSS) program has improved the safety and reduced the risk of homelessness for almost 3,000 women affected by family and domestic abuse in South Australia by improving their home security, but the funding for this program does not extend to providing specific support to children.

"That's where MySafePlace steps in. This initiative, along with other components of the Safely Together Program will provide a greater level of support for children to help them feel safer in their own home."

Children will also have access to counselling and therapeutic interventions to improve their psychological wellbeing as part of the program.

The Safely Together Program is funded by the Attorney-General's Department (SA) under the Crime Prevention and Community Safety Grants.

"I encourage South Australian businesses and traders to get involved in MySafePlace by donating their goods and services to help us turn the dreams of children in to a reality," Mr Roffe said.

Local community members can also donate funds to enable VSS to buy paint, toys, bedding and furniture to turn a child's MySafePlace dream into a reality: <https://chuffed.org/project/my-safe-place>

"By supporting MySafePlace, you'll be helping children who have witnessed or experienced violence in their homes to find comfort and the strength to get their lives back on track. Your involvement will let these kids know that, as a community, we care and that it is not OK for a child to feel unsafe in their own home."

If you have a trade or business or want to donate in other ways, please contact VSS to discuss how you can help.

ENDS

TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW WITH THE VSS CHIEF EXECUTIVE JULIAN ROFFE, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Victim Support Service (VSS) is a statewide, not-for-profit organisation that provides practical and therapeutic support to victims and witnesses of crime in South Australia. Our services include:

- information and advocacy
- counselling
- practical assistance
- support for victims of family/domestic abuse.

For more information go to www.victimsa.org.