

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1 MARCH 2016

New program to support victims of property crime in Western Adelaide

Today Victim Support Service (VSS), in partnership with South Australia Police (SAPOL), announced the launch of the First Response program in Western Adelaide.

First Response provides practical advice, information and emotional support to victims of property crime.

VSS Chief Executive Julian Roffe said First Response is designed to respond to the needs of victims in the immediate aftermath of property crime.

“Many victims don’t know where to start to get their lives back on track”, Mr Roffe said

“Our trained First Response volunteers provide emotional support and practical information about insurance claims, personal safety, and home security.”

“This can be as simple as providing help with filling out forms, or making phone calls to get broken doors and windows repaired.”

SAPOL Acting Officer in Charge, Chief Inspector Jerome Teakle of the Western Adelaide Local Service Area said that the needs of victims of property crime can vary.

“Partnerships between police and victim support services are crucial in supporting victims to cope with the impact of crime and support them through the criminal justice process”.

First Response is funded by the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

The program is being trialed from 1 March 2016 to 30 June 2016.

Victims of property crime living in the Western region of Adelaide including Port Adelaide, Henley Beach and The Parks are eligible for First Response services.

Victims of crime seeking information and practical support can call the Victim Helpline on 1800 VICTIM (1800 842 846).

ENDS

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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Victim Support Service (VSS) is a statewide, community based not-for-profit organisation in South Australia that provides practical and therapeutic support to more than 40,000 victims and witnesses of crime each year in South Australia. Our services include:

- information and advocacy
- therapeutic intervention
- practical assistance
- support for victims of family/domestic violence.

For more information go to www.victimsa.org.

