



## Pru Goward

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Medical Research

Assistant Minister for Health

Minister for Women

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

## MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 18 July 2016

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS ON A SAFER PATHWAY**

People experiencing domestic and family violence will receive tailored, multi-agency support with the roll out of *Safer Pathway* in the Richmond Police Local Area Command (LAC) from March 2017.

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Pru Goward was joined today by the Member for Lismore Thomas George at the Lismore Police Station to make the announcement.

Ms Goward said *Safer Pathway* aims to ensure every domestic violence victim across NSW receives a consistent and effective response regardless of where they live.

“Following the success of *Safer Pathway*’s first six sites, the NSW Government has committed \$53 million over four years to expand *Safer Pathway* statewide, with 21 new locations rolling out in 2016-17,” Ms Goward said.

*Safer Pathway* brings together local representatives including Police, Health, Corrections, Family and Community Services and Education along with local specialist non-government domestic and family violence services, creating a streamlined, integrated referral pathway for victims who are ‘at threat’ or ‘at serious threat’ to their life, health or safety.

“Courageous victims who have been left traumatised and terrified will no longer have to shop around to get the services they need nor will they have to re-tell their story to a multitude of government agencies,” Ms Goward said.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Police and Justice Troy Grant said the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is committed to breaking the cycle of domestic violence in NSW.

“This roll out means even more victims across NSW will now receive coordinated help and support to live their lives free from violence,” Mr Grant said.

Member for Lismore Thomas George welcomed the announcement that the Richmond Police LAC would be one of the first LACs for the *Safer Pathway* expansion.

“We know that having the right support in place is vital. That is why I am so pleased that victims needing help will have the tailored support through *Safer Pathway* to ensure their safety and recovery from abusive relationships,” Mr George said.