



## 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

Wednesday, 27 July 2016

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS ON A SAFER PATHWAY – NOWRA AND WOLLONGONG**

People experiencing domestic and family violence will receive tailored, multi-agency support with the roll out of *Safer Pathway* in the Shoalhaven and Wollongong Police Local Area Commands (LACs) from November 2016.

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Pru Goward was joined today by the Member for South Coast Shelley Hancock MP and Member for Kiama Gareth Ward at the Nowra 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.

The service will be coordinated by the South Coast and Illawarra Women’s Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services, which have a long history of providing professional advocacy and support for women who have experienced domestic violence.

“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 South Coast Shelley Hancock welcomed the announcement that the Shoalhaven and Wollongong LACs would be among the first LACs for the *Safer Pathway* expansion.

“A whole-of-community, whole-of-government approach is needed to prevent and respond to domestic and family violence so that victims and their families are supported to access

services as easily and quickly as possible,” Mrs Hancock said.

Mr Ward said he was pleased Safer Pathway would roll out locally this year.

“Domestic violence is a scourge and has no place in the community. Safer Pathway is putting the right supports in place for victims so they can recover from abusive relationships,” Mr Ward said.