



## 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

Thursday, 28 July 2016

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

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

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Pru Goward was joined today by Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald at the Waratah 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 Hunter Women’s Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service, which has 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.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald welcomed the announcement that the Newcastle City and Port Stephens Police Local Area Commands LACs would be two of the first LACs for the *Safer Pathway* expansion.

“Domestic and family violence is a crime perpetrated against vulnerable women, children and men by cowards. The expansion of *Safer Pathway* into the Hunter means that survivors of domestic violence and their families will receive tailored support and services to help them recover and move on from their abusive relationship,” Mr MacDonald said.