



**Mark Speakman**  
Attorney General  
Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

## MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 27 May 2020

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS SHARE THEIR STORIES

Domestic and family violence survivors will share their stories directly with the NSW Government today to help reduce domestic abuse across the state.

Attorney General and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence Mark Speakman said the forum would assist the Government in improving policy and programs to address domestic and family violence.

“This forum is about empowering survivors, allowing them to directly engage with Government to share their experiences and unique, valuable insights,” Mr Speakman said.

“Their voices will be front and centre at this event and my only priority will be to listen.

“We want to hear what worked for them or what might have worked better for them in their particular circumstances, but ultimately we hope this will help us identify opportunities to enhance frontline responses and the broader system.

“It’ll also be a ‘COVID-safe’ virtual gathering to ensure everyone can share stories safely.”

Hosted by Domestic Violence NSW (DVNSW), the forum will include discussions on early intervention, prevention, legal issues, child protection, homelessness, funding, advocacy and tailored responses for marginal communities.

“We can improve services and save lives by listening to people who have experienced violence,” Renata Field from DVNSW said. “DVNSW commends the Attorney General for taking the time to listen to people with lived expertise.”

Domestic violence is a focus of the NSW Government, with an official [Premier’s Priority](#) aiming to reduce domestic violence reoffending by 25 per cent, by 2023.

Today’s forum also follows a joint NSW and Federal Government announcement this week to deliver more than \$21 million to boost frontline services and other supports during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The investment comprises \$12.8 million from the NSW Government and \$8.8 million from the Commonwealth Government. Further details on this latest investment are available via: <https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/media-releases/-media-releases/-covid-19-funding-to-boost-domestic-violence-support>

*For confidential advice, support and referrals related to domestic and family violence, contact: **1800 RESPECT** (1800 737 732), **The NSW Domestic Violence Line** (1800 65 64 63) or **Men’s Referral Service** (1300 766 491).*