



Robyn Preston MP

Member for Hawkesbury

MEDIA RELEASE

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VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACROSS THE HAWKESBURY URGED TO 'SPEAK OUT'

Domestic violence victim-survivors in Hawkesbury are the focus of a new advertising campaign that encourages victims to contact the NSW Domestic Violence Line, a 24/7 counselling and referral service, for confidential support.

Member for Hawkesbury Robyn Preston MP said COVID-19 restrictions have potentially increased the challenges victims face when seeking help.

"Worryingly, domestic violence victim-survivors across our community have possibly found it more difficult than ever to access the support and refuge they need," Ms Preston said.

"I want everyone across Hawkesbury community to feel like they can speak out when it is safe to do so."

"Everyone has the right to live a life free from violence, and the dedicated staff of the Domestic Violence Line can help ensure victims are properly supported when they take that brave step of reporting their abuse."

The campaign will feature the words 'Speak Out' painted on the lips of people of different age, gender, and cultural background to highlight that domestic violence does not discriminate.

"The campaign will run across a range of platforms to reach as many community members as possible," Ms Preston said

"Messages will run in community languages on SBS radio, public posters will appear in retail precincts and social media platforms like Facebook and WeChat will also run this crucial campaign," Ms Preston said.

The Domestic Violence Line can help victim-survivors to develop a safety plan, find accommodation, including for their children, provide information about available services and advise on how best to contact police, lawyers and the courts.

Robyn Preston said the campaign builds on the NSW Government's ongoing commitment to reduce domestic violence, including the recent NSW and Commonwealth investment of more than \$21 million to boost frontline services across the State in response to COVID-19.

"I encourage any member of the Hawkesbury community to contact the Domestic Violence line for free, confidential and 24/7 support on 1800 65 64 63. Interpreters are also available," Ms Preston said.

For more information, visit www.speakout.dcj.nsw.gov.au.

Media: Mark Rusev | Hawkesbury Electorate Office | (02) 4578 0300