

## Abusers don't fit a specific bill

DOCTORS, lawyers, engineers, police officers, drug addicts and dads – Magistrate Colin Strofield has seen people from all walks of life appear in the Southport Domestic Violence Court over the past 14 months.

“Whatever image you have of a perpetrator, you would be right,” he said.

The specialist court was opened in September 2015

and will be trialled until June 2017.

So far Mr Strofield has seen people as young as 16 and as old as 86 in the courtroom.

But he said positive change had occurred, with more victims reporting crimes, outsiders acting to assist and police applying appropriate enforcement.

All speakers stressed the

need for frontline services like Annerley's Women's Legal Service Queensland which provides advice to women escaping domestic violence.

They have already assisted about 10,000 women this year. To donate visit [wlsq.org.au](http://wlsq.org.au).

If you or someone you know needs help phone the Helpline on 1800 957 957