

DATE: 08/09/2017

MORANBAH AND MACKAY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELP

Women's Legal Service Queensland in collaboration with North Queensland Women's Legal Service will host free legal education workshops and legal advice clinics to help local community agencies support women experiencing domestic violence.

The workshops, which are made possible through a grant by Arrow Energy, will be held in Moranbah and Mackay. Topics will include: an overview of family and domestic violence and the law, making an application for a domestic violence protection order, family law and parenting, family law and property and how to access free legal services.

Women's Legal Service Queensland Principal Solicitor, Rachel Neil believes women in regional areas often face more challenges in seeking support and escaping violence.

"There can be less privacy. In smaller centres there is more chance that everyone knows everyone else's business", Ms Neil said.

"Even where regional areas have local free legal services, sometimes women can be conflicted out of those local services and unable to access them. Unfortunately we know a higher proportion of overall homicide victims in rural and remote areas are women killed in domestic violence, so the ability to access free legal help is vital in these communities."

"Through the training, we're hoping to equip local community service providers with the tools to better help women to stay safe from violence and rebuild their lives", Ms Neil said.

North Queensland Women's Legal Service (NQWLS) Supervising Solicitor, Sharell O'Brien, agrees.

"A good example of NQWLS' ongoing work in keeping the community safe is our 'Ask Nola' website. It is specifically designed to provide support, information and free

monthly webinars on a wide range of legal topics for community workers who are supporting families experiencing domestic violence,” Ms O’Brien said.

“Beyond that, it is NQWLS’ purpose and priority to provide free legal advice and assistance to women living in rural, regional and remote parts of northern Queensland.”

North Queensland Women’s Legal Service offers free individual legal assistance through its Legal Advice Line (1800 244 504) operating from Monday to Thursday from 9.00am until 1.00pm. Skype appointments are available from the Women’s Centre Mackay and telephone appointments from anywhere can be arranged to suit (4772 5400).

Women’s Legal Service Queensland also offers free individual legal assistance through a Rural, Regional and Remote Legal Advice Line (1800 457 117) which is open Tuesdays 9.30am – 1.30pm and a State-wide Legal Advice Helpline (1800 957 957) which is open Monday to Friday 9am – 3pm.

Media Contacts

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EVENT DETAILS

MORANBAH

Tuesday 24 October 2017, 8.45am - 4.30pm

Arrow Energy

Lot 9 Thorpe Street

Moranbah

RSVP: <https://womens-legal-service.iwannaticket.com.au/event/free-domestic-violence-and-family-law-workshop-for-community-agencies-and-service-providers-moranbah-MTM3NjU>

MACKAY

Thursday 26 October 2017 , 8.45am - 4.30pm
Domestic Violence Resource Service Mackay
418A Shakespeare Street
West Mackay

RSVP:<https://womens-legal-service.iwannaticket.com.au/event/free-domestic-violence-and-family-law-workshop-for-community-agencies-and-service-providers-mackay-MTM3NjY>