

## New partnership offers greater protection for domestic violence victims in Goulburn region

Local agreements recently signed between the NSW Department of Family and Community Services (FACS), Anglicare and the NSW Police Hume Local Area Command will enhance the existing service response for women and children who are at risk of homelessness as a result of domestic and family violence.

Anglicare's Manager of Housing and Social Services, Toni Reay says, "Domestic violence is a serious social problem. These agreements improve communication between services to ensure that women and children fleeing domestic violence receive the best immediate and long-term help. Anglicare's local crisis housing service forms part of that support network for families with nowhere else to go."

The agreements between FACS, Anglicare and the local police mean improved 'safer pathways' for women, with or without children, who are leaving violence and at risk of homelessness or requiring crisis accommodation to be safe.

Anglicare will increase service capacity across Goulburn Mulwaree, Upper Lachlan and Yass Valley regions with extended operating hours to provide after hours support to women in crisis. To increase available accommodation, Anglicare will also work with local accommodation providers.

Crime Manager from the Hume Local Area Command, Detective Inspector Chad Gillies, is also encouraged by these partnerships. "These strategic partnerships mean improved responses and greater protection for women and families in our region."

People needing help can contact the domestic violence line 1800 656 463.

For more information including photo opportunity, please contact Amy Lanham on 0437 321 451

