



MEDIA RELEASE

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FORUM HELPS THOSE MISSING LOVED ONES

The Families and Friends of Missing Persons Unit is holding its seventh annual forum on Saturday 18 April at Parramatta to help those who have a missing loved one in NSW.

NSW Attorney General Gabrielle Upton said the forum gives families an opportunity to come together to share their experiences and help them navigate an unfamiliar and difficult journey.

“Every year, more than 35,000 people are reported missing in Australia. While the majority are found within a short period of time, there are still 1,600 long-term missing people in Australia – 650 of those are in NSW,” Ms Upton said.

“Each one of those missing persons is someone’s loved one, someone’s family or friend.

“The subject of missing people and the impact on those left behind is rarely talked about. We need to clear up misconceptions in the community about who goes missing and why.

“The forum aims to help families and friends deal with the trauma and challenges of ‘not knowing’ what has happened to their loved one, and help them cope.”

The Families and Friends of Missing Persons Unit (FFMPU) is part of Department of Justice and was established in 2000. It is the only service in Australia specifically set up to provide specialised counselling, support and practical assistance to those affected by the loss of a missing person.

Since it began, it has helped more than 2,500 family members and friends across the state, nationally and internationally.

The forum will include presentations from the FFMPU team, NSW Police Missing Persons Unit, Black Dog Institute, Charles Sturt University Australian Graduate School of Policing and Deputy State Coroner Magistrate Paul MacMahon.

For more information on the forum please contact ffmpu@justice.nsw.gov.au or phone 1800 227 772.

For more information about the Families and Friends of Missing Persons Unit, visit www.missingpersons.justice.nsw.gov.au.