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FOOTY LEGEND TACKLES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE HUNTER

Former NRL star, Nathan Blacklock and domestic violence survivor, Lani Brennan have a message for Aboriginal people in the Hunter: Koori love shouldn't hurt.

The two high profile campaigners against domestic violence will be guest speakers at a forum for Aboriginal community members and workers at Cameron Park on December 6.

The Aboriginal Community Justice Groups of Toronto and Newcastle are holding the forum as part of the annual 16 Days of Activism to Stop Violence Against Women.

"We need to put an end to the silence surrounding violence in Aboriginal homes," said Aboriginal Community Justice Group Coordinator, Anita Barker.

"Victims must be able to speak out without fear or shame and perpetrators need to take responsibility for their actions."

Lani Brennan will provide the forum with a first hand account of the devastating impact of domestic violence and will explain how victims can escape the cycle of abuse.

"Lani is an inspiration to all victims of domestic violence – her quest for justice resulted in her former partner receiving a lengthy jail sentence and her story was recently the subject of an SBS documentary," Ms Barker said.

Nathan Blacklock is an ambassador for the Tackling Violence program, an anti-domestic violence campaign initiated by the NSW Government in partnership with rugby league bodies.

"It is important to have strong male role models, such as Nathan, who can re-enforce the message that domestic violence has no place in our culture," Ms Baker said.

Two men from the Hunter community who were past perpetrators of domestic violence will also share their stories about the changes they have made in their lives.

The forum, Koori Love Shouldn't Hurt, will be held at 107 Northlakes Drive, Cameron Park on December 6 from 9:30am - 3:15pm.

For more information about White Ribbon Day and the 16 Days of Activism, visit:
www.whiteribbon.org.au