



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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CENTRAL WEST PLEA FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

NSW Attorney General Greg Smith SC is urging qualified counsellors in the Central West to get involved in a scheme that helps victims of violent crime in their recovery.

“Victims of violent crime can seek free counselling through the NSW Government’s Approved Counselling Scheme, but currently there are very few counsellors involved in the scheme in the State’s Central West,” said Mr Smith.

A forum will be held in Forbes next month to provide Central West professionals with practical information about how they can participate.

“The scheme is looking to attract qualified local counsellors - including social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists - who have at least two years post-admission experience,” Mr Smith said.

“They must also be registered with an appropriate professional body and have some experience working with victims of crime.”

The Department of Attorney General and Justice’s Victims Services and BinaalBilla Family Violence Prevention Legal Service (BBFVPLS) will host the forum.

BBFVPLS program coordinator, Karen O’Malley said access to a local counsellor was crucial to some victims of crime.

“Victims of crime who are reluctant to travel could go without face-to-face counselling unless we can attract more professionals to provide the service in the Central West,” Ms O’Malley said.

The forum will also provide counsellors with an opportunity for professional development, with an afternoon workshop to address issues surrounding working with children exposed to domestic violence. Biijana Milosevic, a children’s worker from the Jannawi Family Centre, will conduct the workshop.

The forum will be held at the Jemalong Regional Education Centre, 40-70 Church St, Forbes on 14 November 2011 from 10:30am–4pm. Professionals interested in attending should contact Karen O’Malley, Program Coordinator, BBFVPLS, 18 Spring St, Forbes. (02) 6850 1234 or Karen@binaalbilla.com.au