



Mark Speakman
Attorney General

MEDIA RELEASE

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FORUM FOR SUTHERLAND SHIRE

Leading experts in domestic and family violence will present a forum at Loftus on **Tuesday, 13 November** to educate multicultural communities and TAFE students about the measures available to keep victims safe.

The free event is a NSW government initiative through NSW Justice and TAFE NSW.

Attorney General and Member for Cronulla Mark Speakman, Member for Heathcote Lee Evans, Member for Miranda Eleni Petinos and Member for Holsworthy Melanie Gibbons are encouraging people to attend the free event which urges communities to work together to reduce violence against women.

“Domestic and family violence does not discriminate. It occurs in all sectors of the community and across a wide range of cultural groups,” Mr Speakman said.

“It remains one of the major crime issues of our era, which is why we are doing everything we can to stamp it out.”

Over 100 people are expected to attend the forum, which will showcase free legal and support services in the Sutherland Shire that are available to assist victims and their families who are experiencing violence in the home.

“Meeting frontline workers who respond to domestic and family violence will make it easier for communities to understand how to report the crime, access help lines, get free legal advice, navigate the justice system and receive victims’ support,” Mr Evans said.

In the 12 months to June 2018, there were 479 incidents of domestic violence in the Sutherland Local Government Area, according to the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

“While domestic violence rates remain stable in the Sutherland Shire, we know it remains a significantly under-reported crime,” Ms Petinos said.

Reducing domestic violence reoffending is one of the highest priorities for the NSW Government, which is why it’s delivered a comprehensive and innovative range of initiatives to keep victims safe from harm and reduce reoffending.

“Since 2015, we’ve introduced tougher sentences, implemented programs to intervene earlier, focused on changing the behaviour of offenders, carried out ground-breaking trials such as the electronic monitoring of high-risk perpetrators and improved the way we monitor and police high-risk offenders,” Ms Gibbons said.

“While we’re doing an enormous amount in the domestic and family violence space, there’s still a lot more work to do. We will continue to develop solutions to improve victim safety including hosting forums like this one in Loftus,” she said.

The free event is being held at the Loftus TAFE campus in Rawson Avenue from 10am-2pm. For more information please email TAFEServicesSouthSydney@tafensw.edu.au