



## **SERVICE INFORMATION SHEET**

### **South West Sydney Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service**

#### **Who are we?**

We are a women specific service, funded to provide information, advocacy and support to women and children accessing the court system for protection from domestic violence.

There are 28 Court Advocacy Services statewide, servicing 108 local courts.

We are funded by Legal Aid NSW and have individual auspice bodies.

WDVCAS does **not** provide case management.

#### **SWSWDVCAS -**

Coordinator: Farah Assafiri

Assistant Coordinator: Maria Caceres

Our Auspice body is South West Sydney Legal Centre

*South West Sydney WDVCAS services 3 local courts:*

- Liverpool (Tuesdays)
- Bankstown (Thursdays)
- Fairfield (Fridays)

#### **Pre-court**

- Provide information – explain court process, expectations, requirements, AVO Conditions, Mentions/Hearings/Private Applications, how to find the Court, where to go when a Client arrives at court.
- Liaison with Client, Police, Solicitors, Other Support Workers
- Advocacy
- Referrals to support services

**At court**

- Physical support inside/outside the courtroom – provision of a Women's Safe Room.
- Liaison with Client, Police, Solicitors, Court Staff and other Support People
- Advocacy
- Referrals to:
  - Duty Solicitor (family law advice, assistance for female Defendants without charges, Private AVO Applications
  - Police
  - Other Support Agencies (e.g. counseling, SHLV, Refuges, Victim's Compensation, Centrelink, CFDR)

**Post Court**

- Referrals to support services

**How do we receive referrals?**

- Police Yellow Cards
- Soft Referrals (from other Support Agencies e.g. Centrelink, counseling, Refuges)
- Self Referral (direct contact from a client)
- In-house referral (SHLV/SWSLC)
- Our sister WDVCS's

**Contact details –**

South West Sydney Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service

**Office Phone – 96016988** (answering machine available for messages when office unattended)

**Fax – 96006244**