

CAMPBELLTOWN

Frontline help for women

LEGAL ADVOCATE HONOURED

Vera Bertola

MACARTHUR region domestic violence advocate Tanya Whitehouse said she was humbled just to be nominated for the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW Justice Medal.

At the glittering awards night at Parliament House on October 15, it took her a while to realise the winner they were talking about was actually herself.

"The chick from Campbelltown won! Who would figure?" Ms Whitehouse said in response.

Every year the Law and Justice Foundation presents awards to community groups and individuals who make an outstanding contri-



but ion to the service of the community.

The main award, the Justice Medal, goes to the person who, in the opinion of the judges, has made an exceptional contribution to helping the disadvantaged access justice.

"It was good enough just to be nominated," she said. "I almost died when I realised they were talking about me on the night."

"I am really proud and really humbled."

Ms Whitehouse has



Tanya Whitehouse, a long-time advocate for women and children in domestic violence situations, has won the NSW Justice Medal for her work in the field.

Picture: TIM CLAPIN

worked for 22 years protecting the rights of Macarthur region women and children affected by domestic violence.

She heads the Macarthur Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service. Over the years she has led the expansion of frontline services and advocated for reform.

Ms Whitehouse started her working life in the corporate sector before moving into administration in the public service.

She has combined her advocacy skills with a passionate belief that women and children have a right to feel safe.

"The positive aspect of the job is the feedback from

women that they feel more empowerment and are supported," she said.

Ms Whitehouse and her dedicated team work within the legal system, but also have a collaborative role in ensuring women and children have access to services and information in the wider community as well.

SUPPORT HERE

WHAT: Macarthur Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service

BRIEF: Provides information, referrals, advocacy and support at court for women experiencing issues around domestic violence

DETAILS: macarthurlegalaid.org.au or 4640 7333