

Macarthur Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (MWDVCAS) is a free support service for any women seeking an Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO) through Campbelltown or Picton Courts **OR** women who are looking for support around their Domestic Violence issues. Our role is to give access to women wanting information, referrals, support or advocacy relating to their domestic violence situation. **Women don't need to be going to Court for an ADVO to get our assistance.**

MWDVCAS get referrals daily from Police through the Central Referral Point (CRP) where any DV incident that they are called out to, is referred directly to the WDVAS covering that area. MWDVCAS will then attempt to contact that woman within 24 hours of the referral to see how they can support her. We also have a fortnightly Safety Action Meeting for women deemed at Serious Threat. For more information relating to this, please contact the Coordinator.

MWDVCAS can assist women in the following ways:

- Information about Domestic & Family Violence to clients and/or workers,
- information about getting an ADVO,
- support at Court while going through the process of getting an ADVO including at hearings,
- appropriate referrals to services that may assist women and/or her children,
- advocacy with other agencies such as the Police, Centrelink, FACS Housing NSW, Staying Home Leaving Violence, St Vincent de Paul Case Management etc.,
- assistance with legal representation (subject to assessment) if ADVO's are applied through the Court House or if the woman is a female defendant at Campbelltown Court,
- good knowledge of services available in the area to best suit the woman's needs,
- referrals to appropriate and professional Solicitors,
- information on applying for Victim's Compensation and/or counselling through Victim's Services (able to apply for Victim Services as well),
- information on applying for assistance through a Leaving Violence Payment,
- advocate for clients at the Safety Action Meeting (held fortnightly),
- offer a "safe" phone to clients, - subject to assessment,
- Gift cards (depending on availability/funding/assessment).

Our service has Domestic & Family Violence Specialist Workers in the team . The team also comprises of the following Focus Workers : Aboriginal & TSI and Multicultural. We have a range of caseworkers – Aboriginal, Generalist, Disability Focussed, Multicultural, LGBTIQ+ and Youth Focussed. They are available to work longer term with women – regardless of whether they are going through court.

Women are more than welcome to contact our service directly or be referred (with their permission) by a worker or solicitor. Our service is confidential. **We are a free service.**