

MEDIA RELEASE

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DVSM expansion means Community Spaces for Wilcannia

Domestic Violence Service Management (DVSM), the not-for-profit organisation behind the Wilcannia Safe House (WSH), are expanding their footprint in Wilcannia.

DVSM have been a part of the Wilcannia community since 2013, offering support services and accommodation to women and children impacted by domestic and family violence and homelessness. In the last year alone, the Wilcannia Safe House team supported over 199 women and children. In addition to DVSM's support services, working closely with and educating the community about their roles in ending violence, is a key initiative for the organisation – as seen through the community-supported Wilcannia Fashion Parade, every year.

Focused on the future and increasing the positive impact DVSM's services have had within the local community, led to DVSM embarking on an expansion project. After applying for and successfully receiving additional funding in mid-2021, from the NSW Government's *COVID-19 Sexual, Domestic and Family Violence Infrastructure Grant Program*, DVSM purchased the Wilcannia Courthouse Café and affiliated out buildings on Reid Street in Wilcannia at the end of 2021.

Having recently settled on the property, the DVSM team are now planning their next steps - creating much-needed additional support and community spaces for the people of Wilcannia. Along with holding the keys to the property, DVSM come with plenty of ideas and plans to give back to the local community.

"It's an exciting step for the organisation and the community. Being a large building, on a large block, there are numerous opportunities for use - including staff quarters, meeting spaces for businesses and support services, as well as community events" Mary Ronayne, Community and Culture Manager at Wilcannia Safe House said of the purchase.

"Our goal with this property is to offer additional support and infrastructure to the community, and our next steps will be discussions with the people of Wilcannia to make sure we are creating spaces they need."

The property will require some refurbishment, which will enable DVSM to offer jobs to local trades during the upgrades. The property also allows DVSM the opportunity to explore a commercial enterprise – within The Courthouse Café, in future.

"The Wilcannia community have consistently offered wonderful support and patronage of our annual Fashion Parade, as well as embracing the important work we do on a day-to-day basis." said DVSM's General Manager Sally Grimsley-Ballard.

"We are so pleased the NSW Government awarded grant funding to DVSM to further our contribution in Wilcannia. We are looking forward to working with the community to offer even more local opportunities and deepen our positive impact. This next stage of our commitment to the Wilcannia community has been made possible through the purchase of this centrally located property that we are thrilled to have secured."

-Ends-

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About Wilcannia Safe House

Wilcannia Safe House (WSH) provides overnight, short, and medium-term accommodation for women with or without children who are escaping or experiencing Domestic and Family Violence. The service also provides outreach support for people in the community who are escaping or experiencing Domestic and Family Violence, are homeless, or are at risk of homelessness. The Wilcannia Safe House predominantly supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

About Domestic Violence Service Management (DVSM)

Domestic Violence Service Management (DVSM) provides direct services to people experiencing Domestic and Family Violence and homelessness. We are also continuously working to strengthen social, service, and system responses to people experiencing domestic and family violence together with Insight Exchange. DVSM provides support services in an urban context (Inner Sydney), in a suburban context (Western Sydney), and in remote rural NSW (Wilcannia). DVSM offer four services across New South Wales. Moving Out Moving On (Inner Sydney), Refuge Outreach Action Response and Domestic Violence After Hours Service (both in Western Sydney) and Wilcannia Safe House in rural New South Wales.

Domestic Violence NSW Service Management (DVSM) is a registered charity
(ABN: 26-165-400-635)

Visit: <https://dvnsdsm.org.au/>