



Towards a Safer Future

**NSW WOMEN'S REFUGE MOVEMENT WORKING PARTY INC.**

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## Media Release

### Training achievements of the Orana Far West Safe Houses Recognised

The NSW Minister for Human Services, the Hon. Linda Burney, the Education Centre Against Violence (ECAV) NSW Health and the NSW Women's Refuge Movement will pay tribute to the hard work and dedication of the workers of the five Safe Houses in the Far West of NSW at a Graduation dinner on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Many of the Safe Houses workers have successfully completed a Certificate IV in Aboriginal Family Health through ECAV whilst continuing to work to improve the safety of women and children in their communities through the services offered by the Safe Houses.

In March 08, staff from the Safe Houses commenced the Education Centre Against Violence (ECAV) Cert IV course – Aboriginal Family Health (Family Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Protection). The training is a component of the larger Orana Far West Safe Houses Project. The project is a partnership between the 5 Orana Far West Safe Houses, the NSW Women's Refuge Movement, the NSW Department of Community Services, Housing NSW and the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs which aims to strengthen the Safe Houses capacity to respond to domestic and family violence in their communities. Lorna McNamara Director ECAV stated: "This unique partnership has shown true vision through their support of the staff of the Safe Houses. The results are overwhelmingly positive. Each of the workers has shown tremendous development in their knowledge and skill and they have taken these qualities back to their communities. I have nothing but admiration for the outstanding dedication they have demonstrated throughout this course."

"The commitment of these women to successfully complete the ECAV course whilst continuing to provide safety and support to women and children in their communities must be applauded" said Catherine Gander, Executive Officer of the NSW Women's Refuge Movement Resource Centre.

The Certificate IV will further strengthen the valuable work of the Safe Houses in their communities. The innovative Aboriginal specific course recognises and explores the impact that domestic and family violence, child abuse and sexual assault has on community development. The experience and skill of the Safe House workers has also been acknowledged by ECAV who have indicated that they will utilize some of the assignments completed by the Safe House workers in future ECAV courses.

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