

Getting information and help to escape

fOR a woman escaping from domestic violence, the most useful starting points for information about her options are the statewide DV Line service, the local refuge or a specific domestic violence service in her area. These services will be able to provide comprehensive information about accessing relevant local services.

On page 114 of this kit, you can enter your local 'useful numbers' such as police, hospital and the refuge. You may like to distribute these numbers to women, or to services such as GPs and police to ensure that everyone is familiar with local options.

However, it may not always be possible for a woman to get to a specialist service. Her first contact point may be her GP or a Family Support Service. While many of these services are

very supportive and well-informed, it was reported in consultations that some are not.

It is crucial that a woman knows that there are several places where she can access information. If she doesn't get the help she needs from one service, she needs to know that she can try another.

Domestic violence services

The Domestic Violence Line (DV Line)

The DV Line operates seven days a week, 24 hours a day, every day of the year. It is an immediate source of information that can assist women and children to escape domestic violence. The DV Line is staffed by women who are trained and experienced in all aspects of domestic violence. A woman's

right to remain anonymous is respected.

Women may call the DV Line directly. Staff at the DV Line can simply be someone to talk to, or they can let a woman know of all service options in her local area (or in other regions if the woman prefers).

Specifically, the DV Line can:

- assist with transport, emergency accommodation, hospital care;
- arrange accommodation in emergencies;
- refer clients to women's refuges, explaining what refuges are and what they do;
- refer clients to family support services, counselling, the police and courts, lawyers and hospitals;
- assist with police, put clients in touch with sympathetic legal services and help them access a local Court Assistance Scheme;
- explain what an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) is and how to obtain one;
- provide contact details for members of Local Domestic Violence Committees.

contact

The DV Line

1800 65 64 63
(Freecall)

TTY 1800 67 14 42

24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year

A Department of Community Services (DOCS) service

The DV Line is a DoCS service. Workers and clients do need to be aware that DV Line staff have a legal obligation to report if they 'believe upon reasonable grounds' that children are, or have been, at risk of harm. DoCS considers children witnessing domestic violence to be a child protection issue.

The staff of the DV Line clearly identify themselves as workers from DoCS. It is always possible to discuss with them the implications of their obligation to report.

The 1800 number won't show up on phone bills

If calls to the nearest town are STD and itemised on the woman's phone bill, she does not have to worry. This 1 800 number will not register as an STD call. This is very important if the woman's violent partner checks phone bills to see who she has been calling.

Once DV Line staff have been contacted by a woman, they can then make calls and contacts on her behalf. Alternatively, the DV Line could organise a conference call between the woman and a service in her area. For example, while the woman stays on the line, the staff at the DV Line calls the refuge in her local area. Using the conference call facility, the woman can talk to the refuge via the DV Line. A woman can make inquiries or arrangements with the refuge without her partner finding out.

Note: At the time of compiling this kit, Broken Hill and Tweed were still on an old exchange. This affects 1 800 numbers and may mean that this concealment service is not available in these areas. Please investigate this before recommending the 1 800 number as a course of action.

If the woman does not speak English as a first language, the DV Line will arrange an interpreter.

Service providers can also talk to DV Line staff about any issue relating to domestic violence, and access the comprehensive data base of over 2500 services state wide who identify as dealing with domestic violence.

Court Assistance Schemes

If there is a Court Assistance Scheme in your area, it can be a useful starting point for information. The main function of court assistance schemes is to help women use the legal processes to escape domestic violence. Scheme workers usually have a good understanding of domestic violence and are aware of local services and options. It is usually an

aim of the schemes to improve women's access to these services.

Some Court Assistance Schemes are unfunded. This is important to mention, because the resources of the scheme may be limited.

For information about establishing a Court Assistance Scheme in your area, see page 136 of this kit.

The local refuge can also provide advice and assistance on how to escape.

See the section on refuges on page 109.

Enter the contact details of services in your area in the space provided on page 114.

Other services

Family Support Services

There are over 125 Family Support Services across New South Wales. They are not all the same, although they offer similar services, and are usually managed by a committee of local people.

Family Support Services provide assistance through counselling and advocacy.

Most services hold self-help groups, where women who have a particular experience in common, such as domestic violence, bereavement or sexual abuse, meet for mutual support. There is usually childcare provided for women attending these groups.

Note that, between areas, there may be some variation in both the range and nature of the domestic violence services offered by the Family Support Service.

For information on the Family Support Service in your location, contact the Family Support Services Association of New South Wales, phone: (02) 9743 6565.

GPs and hospitals

Doctors in general practice and hospitals are often the first point of contact for women who are experiencing domestic violence. Hospital

staff and general practitioners have a professional responsibility to respond in a non-judgmental, supportive and empowering way. Hospitals and health centres have developed policies for responding to domestic violence, both at a state and Area Health Services level (see page 165 of this kit).

GPs and hospital staff, especially emergency services, need to be able to recognise and respond to suspected incidents of domestic violence. Their response may need to include more than just treatment of the injury. Listening to the woman, and believing what she says, is an important part of a supportive response. The domestic violence may not be the initial reason for her visit to the GP, but if the woman feels safe, is encouraged, or just needs someone to talk to, her doctor may be the first person in whom she confides. Doctors and hospital staff need to have an understanding of the issues around domestic violence. They will need to inquire about the immediate safety of the woman and her children and provide her with some information about local services and legal options.

The Royal College of General Practitioners has developed educational material and training programs for GPs on women and domestic violence. For more information about this material phone the College on (03) 9214 1414.

Male victims of domestic violence

Victims of domestic violence who are male can call the DV Line or get help from the local community health centre, and the professional counsellors who work there. The Domestic Violence Liaison Officer at the police station will also be able to provide information and referral.

Planning the escape

WHEN a woman decides to leave or 'escape', planning is very important. The woman and her specific circumstances will determine which planning steps are appropriate. It is imperative that a woman considering escape has the assistance of someone who can help her consider the pros and cons.

Women who are experiencing domestic violence often suffer feelings of powerlessness. This may make it difficult for them to think clearly about what they need to do. In addition, escaping may mean the woman and her children are forced to leave their local area and support networks. A support worker needs to assist a woman with overcoming these barriers, respecting her decisions but, at the same time, reinforcing that there are steps she can take to protect herself.

Taking steps to stop the violence

A woman may take some initial precautions to try to deter the perpetrator and stop the violence. These could include:

- separation;
- taking legal action to apply for a restraining order;
- changing locks, buying a telephone answering machine or obtaining a silent number.

However, for some women who live in constant fear of a violent spouse, the only way out is to **escape**. The implications of an 'escape' have to be fully considered and forward planning is essential.

Some important points in planning the escape

Escape can be very difficult. Planning the escape and ensuring the woman has resources to carry it out, are important. Women should consider the following:

Keep all plans confidential

In extreme cases, some women feel that to escape from their violent partner, they will need to make every effort to 'disappear'. In these circumstances, the woman should only discuss her plan with the person who is assisting her. She should not even tell her children. She will need to cover all her steps, even after she is settled in a new area.

Escaping with the children

If children are involved, the woman will usually wish to escape with them. She should be encouraged to take the children with her.

Taking the children with her is not illegal, provided there is not an existing 'residence' or 'contact' order in favour of the man, or a pending application, at the time the woman escapes. If she has the children with her, she does not need to apply for a residence order.

However, the man may apply for 'residence' or 'contact' orders in her absence. If granted, he could apply for a warrant for the children's return, which is now called a Recovery Order.

What if there is a contact order from the Family Court?

If the man has a 'residence order' in relation to the children, or has a 'contact order' from the Family Court at the time when the woman 'escapes' with the children, she will almost certainly be breaching the court order. The man could apply for a Recovery Order. He could also bring contempt proceedings against the woman, if he or the police find her. If she receives a benefit from Centrelink, they will disclose her whereabouts

to the Family Court if the court so orders. The only way to prevent this is for the woman to go to the Family Court as soon as she is settled and seek orders preventing the disclosure of her and the children's whereabouts.

Changing schools

If there are children involved in an escape, a change of school may be necessary. A request can be made to the new school principal that personal information be withheld from the children's father. Most schools will not act on this request unless you have a copy of an AVO or other relevant legal document. Then it is up to the individual principal to accept or reject this request. The old school should not be told where the child is going. If a name change has also been decided upon, the children should be enrolled in their new name. Again, the new principal may not agree to this in the absence of a court order. A request can be made that no record be made to connect the new identity with the old one. Most schools will note that the child should be known by its new name and all records, reports and other documents will appear in the new name. Note here, that if the father finds out the children are using a new name, he can apply to the court to stop the use of the new name.

A new support network

If escaping means that the woman must leave town, she may need referrals to agencies in her new area so that she can establish new support networks.

Court action may divulge the woman's address

Be aware that any court action taken, even for an Apprehended Violence Order, may divulge the woman's address. It is possible to use a 'care of' address in court actions, or to seek an order that the woman's address not be disclosed.²

Service providers need to be aware that escape can have serious, even dangerous consequences for a woman and her children.

The following points are for consideration only. Where possible, any plans for escape should be carried out with guidance from a professional domestic violence service provider.

Some factors to consider in making the plan

Where to go?

- to a refuge in the town, or in another area;
- to friends or family;
- into emergency housing;
- to the hospital.

What is the best time to leave?

- Consider the whereabouts of the perpetrator. Where will he be and when?
- Consider the children. Where will they be, or where is the best place to collect them? From school? From home?
- Is there anyone trusted enough to help?

What to take?

- important documents such as passports, birth certificates (her's and the children's), bank books, a copy of the AVO, property deeds in her name, marriage certificates, any other documents such as car registration which has the woman's name on them;
- important personal items such as photos, the children's favourite toys;
- a medical kit – include any medications for herself or her children;
- a key to the house.

How to get away?

- Consider the transport options in advance.
- Private transport, or public?
- Special arrangements might be made: for example, the bus company may agree to pick up women and children at prearranged places away from the bus shelter.

Emergency Assistance

The police

The police have the power to provide immediate protection at any time of the day or night. If a woman feels threatened, or is worried about her family's safety, she can call the police.

If a woman calls the police because of domestic violence, the police attending will either charge and arrest the perpetrator, or apply for an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) on the woman's behalf, depending on the circumstances.

Police are now instructed to take this action when attending a domestic violence dispute. The only reason for them not to take out an AVO on the woman's behalf is if she tells them she intends to take one out herself, or they are satisfied that no incident has occurred.

The police officer attending an incident must apply for a Telephone Interim Order (TIO) if the officer believes or suspects that a domestic violence offence or act of child abuse has recently been, is being, or is likely to be committed. A TIO places restrictions on the person's behaviour and can exclude them from the premises for short periods up to 14 days.

The TIO now constitutes a complaint for an AVO and must contain a summons for the defendant to appear at court.

Police can arrest the perpetrator if there is physical assault, damage to property or if the offender is stalking the woman.

They have the authority to remove all guns, even if they do not belong to the perpetrator.

Police can arrange for an interpreter if one is required.

The ambulance

The NSW Ambulance Service will pick up a woman injured as a result of domestic violence and take her to hospital.

People covered by basic hospital insurance with a registered health fund receive free ambulance service. Insurance cover for ambulance services may be obtained through the State Ambulance Insurance Plan.

Department of Community Services

DoCS can provide emergency assistance for women with children escaping domestic violence. For details, contact your local DoCS District Office or phone the DV Line on 1 800 65 64 63.

When is the ambulance service free of charge?

If a woman calls an ambulance for injuries sustained from domestic violence, the service may be provided free of charge. This is assessed on a case-by-case basis, and is usually decided on the basis of whether the bill will exacerbate the domestic situation.

A woman needs to ask the attending ambulance officer to note that her injuries were sustained as a result of a domestic dispute. If she still receives a bill for the service, she can call her local District Office and explain the circumstances of the incident. In most cases, this will be sufficient to have the account written off.

Ambulance service in New South Wales is free to anyone who receives income support from Centrelink, or a Veterans' Affairs Service pension. It is also free to holders of a pensioner concession card, health care card or a health benefits card.

Centrelink

To receive any payments from Centrelink, women must be eligible under Centrelink criteria.

If an eligible woman is escaping domestic violence, she can speak to the social worker at her nearest Centrelink Customer Service Office. The social worker can prepare a report that may entitle her to claim special provisions relating to domestic violence.

She may be able to obtain immediate financial assistance from a Centrelink Crisis Payment. This is a one-off, non-refundable payment and may be paid to customers experiencing domestic or family violence who are in severe financial hardship and forced to leave their home.

For more information about Centrelink, see page 171 of this kit.

Where to go?

THE QUESTION of where to go to escape domestic violence poses a dilemma for many rural women. The options are often limited. The stress of having to leave their homes and communities can be enough to deter many women from leaving.

If it is possible for police to remove the perpetrator from the home, rather than removing the woman and her children, then this is the most desirable course of action.

If the perpetrator is not or cannot be, removed from the home, and the woman wants to get away, then a refuge is the best option for the safety of her and her children. Many refuges will come and collect women if they wait at a prearranged safe place, such as the hospital or police station.

In many areas, it is reported that even if police are able to remove the perpetrator from the home, they sometimes do not. This may be because the nearest lock-up is hundreds of kilometres away. Sometimes, however, the refuge may also be hundreds of kilometres away and to collect the woman and her children, refuge workers have to drive this distance. If police respond in this way, it is inappropriate and takes advantage of the refuge and its service. This is a local issue, and is often of great concern. It may be an issue for discussion at Local Domestic Violence Committee meetings.

The refuge

What is a refuge?

Women's refuges are safe houses that provide short-term accommodation for women and children escaping domestic violence.

Refuge workers offer women counselling and emotional support as well as advocacy and assistance with legal, medical, housing, financial and other matters.

If she knows the number, a woman may call the refuge directly. Otherwise the DV Line can put her in touch with the nearest refuge. To contact the DV Line, phone **1 800 65 64 63**.

Can a woman take her kids?

In most refuges – absolutely. Children, as well as their mothers, are recognised as clients of refuge services. Refuges provide an environment in which children can feel safe, free from anxiety and fear. Special programs are run to assist children in working through the effects of witnessing, and at times experiencing, abuse. There are also programs for grief.

Most refuges have Child Support Workers who focus on the support needs of children. These workers have specific training to meet the needs of children in crisis.

What if there isn't a refuge in town, or the refuge is full?

Because of funding restrictions, refuges are not available in all areas.

If there is not a refuge in the woman's area, other strategies may be in place. In some areas, Emergency Housing may be an option. The Department of Community Services can provide emergency assistance for women and children escaping domestic violence. They may fund an escape, or pay a night's accommodation, while alternative arrangements are made. Local services often have links with refuges in other areas.

How long can a woman stay?

Most refuges can provide accommodation for up to three months. The average stay is around five weeks.

Does it cost money?

There is a small payment each week in most refuges. However, this is based on a woman's ability to pay and may be waived if she does not have a regular income.

What happens after the woman leaves?

This depends on the woman and her situation. The Women's Housing Program may be an option if the woman and her children are in need of medium term housing. See page 112 of this section for details. Refuges will be able to inform women of their options and help them to take their choice of action.

Emergency accommodation

Emergency accommodation will vary from area to area. In some areas (where there is no refuge), it is reported that emergency accommodation operates in a similar way to a refuge. In these areas, it may be the safest place in town to go.

It is advisable to investigate the emergency accommodation facilities in your area. You will need to consider their policies on referral of men, and whether a woman may stay with her children.

Family and friends

Family and friends may be an option. However, the perpetrator will usually know who these people are and may be able to find the woman easily. This will not help her to feel safe and protected.

What next?

Getting legal representation

If the police take out an AVO for a woman, she doesn't need to get legal representation. The Police Prosecutor will represent her in court. However, if a woman does need legal representation, the following services can help her.

Domestic Violence Advocacy Service (DVAS)

The DVAS is a specialist legal service dealing with matters of domestic violence. It

provides free legal advice by telephone and, subject to availability, may represent women applying for AVOs.

The DVAS is also involved with policy development, law reform and advocacy. It provides education and training for service providers in both metropolitan and rural areas.

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre

The Centre provides legal advice, information, representation and referral to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children in New South Wales,

with special concern for victims of violence and sexual assault. Managed by Aboriginal women, the Centre aims to provide a culturally appropriate and gender specific service.

The Centre also provides community legal education and training, and works towards law and administrative reform.

contact

Domestic Violence
Advocacy Service

Ph: (02) 9637 3741

Freecall 1800 810 784

TTY 1800 626 267

*between 9.30am - 12.30pm
and 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday and Friday.*

contact

Wirringa Baiya
Aboriginal Women's
Legal Centre

Ph: (02) 9569 3847

Freecall
1800 686 587

contact

Women's Legal
Resource Centre
Ph: (02) 9749 5533
Freecall
1800 801 501
TTY 1800 674 333

*between 9.30am - 12.30 pm
Mon- Fri and 1.30 - 4.30pm
Mon., Tues., Thurs. and Friday.*

Women's Legal Resource Centre (WLRC)

The WLRC provides legal advice, information and referral to women. Advice can be given both over the phone and face-

to-face. Other functions of the WLRC include community legal education, advocacy, lobbying and law reform.

The Indigenous Women's Program

The WLRC now operates a free legal service specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait

contact

Indigenous Women's
Legal Contact line
Freecall 1800 639 784

Islander women and girls from New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

This service provides legal information, advice, referral and access to the Domestic Violence Advocacy Service. It may also undertake a limited amount of casework and implement community legal education programs.

The service is staffed by Aboriginal women.

Legal Aid

What is Legal Aid?

Legal Aid is a range of legal assistance, including information, advice and representation. Where representation is concerned, Legal Aid may be provided in the form of a duty solicitor, or as financial assistance.

The Legal Aid Commission also provides community legal education.

Who is eligible for Legal Aid?

Free legal advice is available to anyone attending a Legal Aid office in person. Eligibility for Legal Aid assistance is determined by a means and merits test.

Legal Aid may be available to women or other complainants in AVO proceedings involving a domestic relationship.

For up-to-date information about eligibility criteria for legal aid, contact your nearest Legal Aid office.

What are Legal Aid offices?

Legal aid offices are located all around the state. You can contact Legal Aid through its 1800 number, or contact your nearest office directly.

How do people apply for Legal Aid?

Application forms are available from Legal Aid offices, Community Legal Centres and Local Courts.

For more information, contact **1800 806 913** or the local Legal Aid office.

Other legal assistance

The Law Society of NSW has a Community Assistance Department which provides advice over the telephone on legal problems and dealings with solicitors.

Chamber Magistrates and Clerks of Local Courts are court officials with legal experience who can provide free legal advice.

Sympathetic solicitors

The DVAS keeps a list of private solicitors around the state who are sympathetic to the issues faced by women and children escaping domestic violence. Refuges and domestic violence services such as Court Support Schemes usually keep lists of local solicitors who have been helpful.

Income support options from Centrelink

Single women escaping domestic violence may be eligible for disability support, youth allowance, NewStart allowance or special benefits.

If the woman has children and is separating from her partner, she may apply for the Parenting Payment Single. If she is eligible for social security and is escaping domestic violence, she may have the waiting times for payments waived. Her application can be assessed and granted almost immediately.

Housing

Women's medium term housing schemes

Women's medium term housing schemes provide accommodation and support for women and children. While many of the tenants have joined the schemes from a refuge, the schemes are open to all women. Women become tenants in their own furnished houses leased from the Department of Housing and pay 25% of their income in rent.

Most schemes are generalist, housing and supporting women and children with longer-term problems that may be resolved over 12 months. There are also specialist schemes for incest survivors, the mentally ill, the drug and alcohol affected and for Aboriginal and non-English speaking background women and children.

For information about how to access these schemes and the services in your region, contact your local refuge.

Community Housing Associations

Housing Associations are run locally and offer low cost housing. Call your local Department of Housing office or your local Community Housing Association for more information.

Department of Housing

The Department of Housing (DoH) has policies that help women who are escaping domestic violence. Any person being subjected to domestic violence may apply for housing assistance from the Department of Housing. This applies to any member of a household including the elderly, children or young people, a same sex partner, a de facto partner or a spouse.

In general, a person must meet certain criteria to be considered for most forms of public housing in NSW. Usually, they must be a citizen of Australia or permanent resident and live in NSW. They must also be within the Department's income and asset limits and able to successfully sustain a tenancy either independently or with appropriate support services.

Women (including refugee women) escaping domestic violence who need housing and that meet the Department's eligibility criteria may be eligible for a number of programs, including priority housing and RentStart.

The domestic violence needs to be substantiated by a third party, such as the refuge or a social worker, police, community advocate or court staff.

Priority housing

Client Service Officers consider applications from women living in refuges. Issues considered include whether the woman is homeless, or at risk of being homeless, and whether she is eligible for RentStart. However, in the allocation of limited public housing, domestic violence is not the only issue that has to be considered. The Department must also consider other kinds of emergencies and applicants who have been waiting a long time.

The woman will be interviewed about her circumstances and an assessment will be made from that interview to determine if she is to be approved for priority housing. This interview is critical to her chances of

receiving housing promptly. Letters from the refuge or social worker, or a medical report will be required to support her application.

If the woman is approved for priority housing, the Department will try to find her appropriate housing within three months.

RentStart

The Department of Housing RentStart assistance can provide up to three weeks of the cost of rental bond. People in severe financial situations may be eligible for full bond, up to two weeks rent in advance (three weeks for furnished accommodation), removal fees, power connection fees and costs for up to four weeks of temporary accommodation.

Department of Housing tenants who have experienced domestic violence may also be eligible for assistance with bond and advance rent if they are seeking a new private housing tenancy.

Emergency Temporary Accommodation

If a woman (or her children) are at risk of harm because of domestic violence but they do not fit the eligibility criteria of the Department, the Department may still provide them Emergency Temporary Accommodation for up to 3 months. This is available only in extreme emergencies, perhaps when the lives of women and children are threatened. Even then, emergency housing will only be granted after all other options have been considered. When emergency housing is provided, the accommodation becomes available on the spot. Motel accommodation may be used until appropriate public housing becomes available.

Sponsored migrants and temporary residents are not eligible for priority assistance until their status is resolved. However, they may be eligible for Emergency Temporary Accommodation if they are made homeless due to domestic violence and have no income to rent privately.

What if the violence happens in a Department of Housing home?

A tenant may apply for a Priority Transfer because of domestic violence. If the situation is life threatening, the tenant will be relocated immediately. This may involve the provision of temporary accommodation while the tenant's longer-term needs are assessed.

The domestic violence needs to be substantiated by a third party, such as the refuge or a social worker.

If domestic violence occurs in a Department of Housing home, the implications depend on which tenancy arrangement applies. A woman should contact her DoH Client Service Officer for more information.

If a tenant has already been rehoused because of domestic violence and then requests another transfer because of domestic violence, they must demonstrate to DoH that they are using appropriate support services before the request will be approved.

If a DoH tenant left their home because of domestic violence, they may be eligible for immediate reinstatement of their tenancy if they apply to the Department within six months of leaving their home. Documentation to support this claim, such as an AVO or letter from a support agency such as a refuge, is required.

Put your local numbers in the spaces provided

contacts

as at / /

EMERGENCY – LOCAL

Police

Town:

:

Hospital

Town:

:

Women's Refuge

Town:

:

Emergency Accommodation

Town:

:

Domestic violence counsellor

Town:

:

Chamber Magistrate

Town:

:

ONGOING ASSISTANCE

Women's Health Centre

Town:

:

Family Support Service

Town:

:

Dept. of Social Security

Town:

:

Dept. of Community Services (DOCS)

Town:

:

Local Housing Schemes

Town:

:

Department of Housing

Town:

:

Sexual Assault Service

Town:

:

Aboriginal service/workers – domestic violence

Town:

:

EMERGENCY – STATEWIDE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LINE
1800 65 64 63 (24hr)

RAPE CRISIS LINE
1800 424 017 (24hr)
(02) 9819 6565

DoCS Helpline
(24hr) 1800 066 777

HOMELESS PERSONS
(02) 9265 9087
(Mon - Fri 8am - 6pm.
Reverse charges will be accepted.)

TRANSLATING AND
INTERPRETING SERVICE
13 1450 (24hr)

POLICE AND AMBULANCE
000

Migrant services/workers – domestic violence

Town:

:

Disability service

Town:

:

LEGAL HELP

Court Assistance Scheme

Town:

:

Community Legal Centre

Town:

:

Local solicitors

Name:

:

Domestic Violence
Advocacy Service (DVAS)
: 1800 810 784

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal
Women's Legal Centre
: 1800 686 587

Women's Legal
Resource Centre (WLRC)
: 1800 801 501

WLRC – Indigenous
Women's Legal Contact Line
: 1800 639 784

Legal Aid : 1800 806 913

Further reading

Project Officers of the Pearl Watson Foundation (eds) 1991, *Section 2 Family Law Kit for Women's Refuge Workers*. Revised in 1991 by Women's Legal Resources Centre and Marrickville Legal Centre.

Redfern Legal Centre 1996, *Domestic Violence Court Assistance: An Information and Training Kit* Redfern Legal Centre Publishing, Sydney.

Endnotes

- 1 Redfern Legal Centre 1996, *Domestic Violence Court Assistance: An Information and Training Kit* Redfern Legal Centre Publishing, Sydney, page 95.
- 2 Information about planning the escape is from the Project Officers of the Pearl Watson Foundation (eds) 1991, *Section 2 Family Law Kit for Women's Refuge Workers*. Revised in 1991 by Women's Legal Resources Centre and Marrickville Legal Centre and from information gathered by the Women's Refuge, Referral and Resource Centre. (Information included has been reviewed and updated, March 1997, by WLRC).
- 3 The information about the repayment of Special Benefit is from a Wesnet National Secretariat document *Sole Parent Pension changes* March 1997. For more information about lobbying action, contact Wesnet.