

Mark Speakman Attorney General Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

Geoff Lee

Acting Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

MEDIA RELEASE

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SUPPORTING STUDENTS TO TAKE A STAND AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Preventing domestic violence is set to be the focus of a public forum designed to support multicultural students at the Wetherill Park TAFE campus next month.

Attorney General Mark Speakman and acting Minister for Multiculturalism Geoff Lee said the event is an opportunity to raise awareness about the real impacts of violence in the home.

"Addressing domestic violence is a top priority of the NSW Government, which is why we are making a record \$431 million investment over four years to better protect victims and hold perpetrators to account," Mr Speakman said.

"This forum will offer valuable insights into different types of domestic violence such as emotional abuse or harassment and stalking and most importantly it will show people where they can go for help."

The event is part of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, an annual international campaign to end the abuse of women and girls.

More than 200 students from TAFE NSW Wetherill Park's Adult Migrant English Program are expected to attend the event.

Dr Lee said it was critical for migrants to feel safe and supported in the community.

"Domestic violence is never acceptable and there are plenty of culturally sensitive support services in south-western Sydney that can provide advice in a confidential setting," Dr Lee said.

"This is not only crucial advice for victim-survivors, but also aims to help other members of the community who might have concerns about the health or safety of a loved one."

The forum is a collaboration between the Diversity Services Unit of the NSW Department of Communities and Justice, TAFE NSW, Fairfield City Council, CORE Community Services, Drug and Alcohol Multicultural Education Centre, Bonnie Support Services and the Department of Human Services.

The event is on Wednesday, 4 December from 10am to 2pm at Wetherill Park TAFE. For more information about attending the event, please email Sam Borka <u>sam.borka@justice.nsw.gov.au</u> or Jelena Pisaturo <u>jelena.pisaturo@tafensw.edu.au</u>.