

WESNET Media Release

Launch of New Report

30 November 2000

'Why do women live in refuges when the perpetrators live in the comfort to which they are accustomed? Why must we three eke out a living on a pension of \$330 per week of which \$130 goes in rent while my husband lives on his salary of \$750 per week of which \$85 goes on the mortgage and lives alone in a four bedroom, two bathroom house.'

(Woman with two children who had experienced domestic violence)

Women and children who have experienced domestic and family violence often face enormous upheaval, disruption and disadvantage as they attempt to find a home that is safe, suitable and affordable.

A new report, Home Safe Home: The Link between Domestic and Family Violence and Women's Homelessness, challenges the presumption that women should leave their homes and highlights the need for male perpetrators to be removed to alternate accommodation.

Home Safe Home will be launched by Senator Jocelyn Newman, Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister for the Status of Women at Parliament House Canberra at 10.30am on Thursday, 30 November 2000 in the theatre foyer.

'The report challenges our thinking about the provision of services, current policies and practices, legal and police systems, the judicial system and the housing system' says Penny Becker, Chair of the WESNET Partnerships Against Domestic Violence Committee.

'The study is a first of its kind and points to the need for greater diversity and integration in service delivery to provide for the range of individual needs. Attitudinal change as the key.' she said.

WESNET, Australia's peak women's organisation working to eliminate domestic and family violence, was contracted to undertake this research as a project of the Commonwealth Government's Partnerships Against Domestic Violence initiative. It has been funded by the Department of Family and Community Services and undertaken in conjunction with the Office of the Status of Women. The research was carried out by the Social Policy Research Group, University of South Australia.

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