

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17th April 2020

Temporary Accommodation Hotel Register Launched

- **A register for hotels to become providers of temporary accommodation has been launched by the Industry Partnership (HomelessnessNSW, YFoundations and DVNSW)**
- **100's of rooms available across NSW**

Over the past month, Domestic Violence New South Wales (DVNSW) has received an overwhelming response from hotels offering accommodation. A central register of available and appropriate hotel accommodation has now been developed by the Industry Partnership and specialist services are ready to support women and children placed in temporary accommodation.

“Domestic and family violence support has continued to be available and services have adapted quickly to the COVID-19 conditions. More resources and therapeutic supports have moved online, whilst refuges are safe, have vacancies and are providing intensive levels of wrap-around support. However, this additional accommodation coming online now will help relieve pressure points across the system in the response to women escaping domestic violence, as well as helping refuges and shelters that need additional accommodation to meet state health requirements for social distancing and self-isolation.” says Renata Field, DVNSW.

DVNSW is continuing to advocate to state government to improve efficiencies and reduce impact on strained resources by adopting a consistent response to supporting women and children escaping domestic violence that require safe accommodation. This includes:

- Increasing the provision of temporary accommodation from a minimum approval of five days to 14 days
- Increasing funding to specialist service to provide wrap around support to women placed in temporary accommodation
- Removing barriers to access for women on temporary visas

The improved outcomes of this move would:

- Provide increased stability and reduce stress and anxiety for women and children who have escaped domestic violence in the critical first weeks, which is exacerbated by the current COVID-19 climate
- Ease pressure on systems and resources. Link2Home which is the centralised system for placing people at risk of homelessness into accommodation, has seen a significant increase in calls over the past month. With temporary accommodation approvals on a 14 day rather than five day basis would reduce the burden of reapplying and pressure on over stretched resources
- Enable services to focus on support. By reducing administration requirements to apply for additional temporary accommodation every five days, more time would be available to support increasing numbers of women in temporary accommodation

“Whilst we are delighted that the NSW government has provided an additional \$14.32 million funding for temporary accommodation over the next 15 months, it is essential that this budget is used effectively to ensure that women and children who are at risk are provided with a safe place to live, with adequate support, for an appropriate amount of time,” says Ms Field.

-Ends-

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence help can be found via:

- **1800RESPECT** or 1800 732 732 which offers a national counselling helpline, information and support
- **NSW Domestic Violence Line** 1800 65 64 63 which offers a state-wide counselling helpline, information and support
- **Men’s Referral Service** 1300 766 491 for men, or friends and family of men using violence

If you or someone you know is experiencing or is at risk of homelessness help can be found via

- **Link2Home** 1800 152 152 the state-wide telephone line managed by the Department of Communities and Justice
- **Ask Izzy** <https://askizzy.org.au> is a free and anonymous service provides search functions to access over 360,000 services in housing, meals, healthcare, counselling, legal advice, addiction treatment and more.

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About DVNSW

Domestic Violence NSW Inc. (DVNSW) is the peak body for specialist domestic and family violence services in NSW. DVNSW provides a representative and advocacy function for specialist services and the women, families and communities they support. Their mission is to eliminate domestic and family violence through leadership in policy, advocacy, partnerships and the promotion of best practice.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NSW

About the Industry Partnership

The Industry Partnership is an innovative partnership between the three state peaks; Homelessness NSW, DVNSW and Yfoundations. It was established to develop and implement the Homelessness Industry and Workforce Development Strategy under the auspice of Homelessness.

For more information about the property register, please see <https://airtable.com/shrmPKaXG4Mw8hiz9> or contact jacqui@homelessnessnsw.org.au.