



14 May 2024

MEDIA RELEASE

**WORKSHOPS AIM TO BOOST RESPONSE TO FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
IN THE GOLDFIELDS**

Strengthening the ability of frontline workers in the Goldfields to support people experiencing family and domestic violence is the aim of a series of workshops that will launch in Kalgoorlie next week.

Run by DVassist—a non-profit agency specialising in online counselling for family and domestic violence support in regional, rural, and remote Western Australia, the workshops are designed to increase the confidence, knowledge, and skills of first responders, support workers, and health professionals in the region.

Sessions cover various essential topics, including de-escalating volatile situations, safety planning, and understanding and responding to coercive control. They are part of a comprehensive six-month campaign of activities developed specifically for the Goldfields community.

The family and domestic violence program has been funded by the Department of Social Services and brokered by the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

DVassist CEO Ella Ailenei said that while there are many challenges and barriers to responding to family and domestic violence in regional, rural, and remote communities, we acknowledge that each community is unique and has different needs.

“We’ve worked closely with agencies and professionals across the Goldfields Region to ensure the workshops, education and information we are delivering meets the specific needs of people living and working in the Goldfields,” she said.

“Frontline workers and first responders are critical to tackling the family and domestic violence crisis we are facing, so supporting them with knowledge and skills is vital.”

Ms Ailenei said all the workshops have been developed using a trauma-informed approach.

“Many people experiencing family and domestic have a history of trauma, including complex trauma. We must upskill frontline workers to understand the impact of trauma and develop techniques which allow them to support people in empathetic and compassionate ways.”

The twelve free DVassist workshops, which are led by specialist family and domestic violence educators, will be held at the Goldfields Women’s Health Care Centre in Kalgoorlie until the end of June 2024.

For more information or to register for a workshop, email ceo@dvassist.org.au or visit DVAssist’s social pages.



DVassist is a not-for-profit organisation that provides services to women experiencing family and domestic violence in regional WA. It provides anonymous, confidential, free phone and web chat counselling services, online information, and a service directory. DVassist also provides education and training to professionals and frontline personnel who interact with or support women experiencing family and domestic violence in regional WA.

Media Contact: Caitlyn Maher @ The PR Collaborative 0426 221 310