



**Mark Speakman**  
Attorney General  
Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **NSW GOVERNMENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GRANT GIVES CHILDREN A SAFE PLACE TO PLAY**

Children who have fled violent homes with their families will be able to enjoy some new play equipment, with a Bourke refuge recently benefiting from a \$10,000 NSW Government grant.

Attorney General and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence Mark Speakman said children are often the silent victims of domestic and family violence.

“The terrible trauma suffered by children, either directly at the hands of a relative or indirectly when often their mother is abused, is completely abhorrent,” Mr Speakman said.

“Fortunately in NSW we have incredible crisis accommodation services for families who’ve suffered domestic and family violence that offer some solace as they attempt to recover.

“It’s so important that families feel safe and supported in these premises and that’s why I’m pleased that this grant will bring children a little piece of joy in the face of adversity.”

CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes operates the refuge in Bourke and will use the Government grant to purchase and install a children’s playground as well as associated floor coverings for families to use when staying at their accommodation.

CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes Program Manager Christine L’Estrange welcomed the Government’s support.

“Families enter crisis accommodation at the very worst of times, when they’ve often endured horrific abuse and are trying to figure out their next step,” Ms L’Estrange said.

“Ultimately services like ours aim to support families through that initial crisis and then help them transition into more independent living, when they’re safe and have the right resources in place to do so.

“But having a meal together as a family at the refuge, reading bed time stories and now having some fun in the playground – can all help tremendously during the healing journey.”

To learn more about CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes’ services that are available in Bourke, visit <https://ccwf.org.au/archives/category/locations/bourke>.

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