

The Cottage

Opening hours

Crisis / Drop In Service
(No appointment needed)

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
9.30am — 1.00pm

Thursday
9.30am — 1.00pm & 3.00pm — 7pm

Statewide Numbers:

Police..... (000)

Domestic Violence Line (24 hrs)... 1800 656 463

Domestic Violence Advocacy Service...
1800 810 784

Women's Legal Resources Centre...
1800 801 501

Homeless Persons Information Centre...
1800 234 566

After Hours Family Crisis Service....
9622 0522 or 9622 0313

Hawkesbury Support Services:

Hawkesbury Women's Domestic Violence Court Support... 45879997

Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre...4587 8877

Hawkesbury Community Health Centre...
4560 5714

Nureen Hawkesbury Women's Accommodation & support service Information Service...4588 3512

Tel: (02) 4578 4190

Fax: (02) 4578 2480

womcot@pnc.com.au

www.womenscottage.org.au



The Women's Cottage

Hawkesbury Area Women
&
Kids Services Collective

Domestic Violence

The Women's Cottage takes the stance that domestic violence is never the woman's fault.

The Women's Cottage provides an environment where women who have experienced or are experiencing domestic violence feel safe, cared for and supported in their decisions around their situations.



22 Bosworth Street
Richmond, NSW 2753.
P.O Box 305
Richmond, 2753.

This service is funded by Department of Family & Community Services, Community Services

What is Domestic Violence?

- ◆ Domestic violence is the use of any form of violence by a person to control another.
- ◆ It can happen to any woman, of any age, any educational and income level and of any religious and cultural background.
- ◆ Domestic violence is NOT just physical abuse. It is also sexual abuse, psychological and emotional abuse, verbal abuse, social abuse, economic abuse and spiritual abuse.
- ◆ Domestic violence is NEVER anyone but the abuser's fault
- ◆ It is not only male partners that are abusive, female partners can be abusive too
- ◆ Children can be direct victims of domestic violence and even witnessing violence can affect their lives.



Every Woman has the Right to:

- ◆ To be treated with respect
- ◆ To have and express her own feelings and opinions
- ◆ To be listened to and taken seriously
- ◆ To say NO without feeling guilty
- ◆ To ask for what she wants
- ◆ To get what she pays for, including non-patronising information
- ◆ To make mistakes
- ◆ To set her own priorities
- ◆ To choose not to assert herself, where appropriate not to.
- ◆ To change her mind
- ◆ To refuse to answer intrusive, personal questions
- ◆ To protect her personal space

There are many reasons why women choose to stay with their partners.

Staff at the Women's Cottage support the choices women make and will assist in developing safety strategies for women and their families

Services for women who experience domestic violence

Include:

- ◆ Staff trained and experienced in dealing with domestic violence and its effects.
- ◆ Confidential crisis & ongoing support.
- ◆ Referral to specialist counselling for women & children effected by violence
- ◆ Information and support for women wishing to leave abusive relationships .
- ◆ Support and safety plans for women who choose to stay in volatile/abusive situations
- ◆ Practical and Material support
- ◆ A 'Reclaiming Life' program, an 8 week group for women moving on from the effects of domestic violence

