

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Domestic Violence Crisis Service turns to community at time of unprecedented demand

In 2015 the Domestic Violence Crisis Service ACT (DVCS) experienced a surge in demand for services unprecedented in its 27 year history. Now, it is inviting the Canberra community to help support this vital and trusted service by attending its annual Blue & White Gala Ball.

DVCS provides 24-hour telephone and face-to-face crisis support as well as counselling, court advocacy, and emergency accommodation.

“We were absolutely overwhelmed by the kindness of the Canberra community at our Blue & White Gala Ball last year,” said DVCS Executive Director, Mirjana Wilson.

2016 Australian of the Year [Lieutenant-General David Morrison](#) is special guest speaker at this year’s Ball, which will be MC’d by actor [Shane Jacobson](#) and feature a special live performance by [Christine Anu](#), who has become a strong advocate and supporter for domestic violence campaigns across Australia after speaking publically about the impact of domestic violence on her family.

“It is overwhelming to know that my story has resonated with the Australian public. I am honoured to be asked to participate in the Blue & White Gala Ball this year as this is a cause very close to my heart,” she said.

Family and intimate partner violence are especially prevalent in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, Ms Wilson said.

“DVCS is lucky to have been included in an Australian National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety research project in relation to this issue: we have already learnt a great deal and are hoping to continue to build on this over the coming years,” she added.

Last year’s Blue & White ball raised enough money to provide emergency accommodation for families escaping violence and care packs for adults, children and babies, and to top up other support programs.

“This year we hope to top up our emergency accommodation budget, provide picnics and outings for the children who are part of our [Young People’s Outreach Program](#) and additional funding to run more [Support Groups](#). We are really excited to share with the Canberra community another night of fun, laughter and entertainment in support of our service, and to continue the conversation about family violence,” Ms Wilson said.

The Blue & White Gala Ball is being held on Saturday 19 March at QT Hotel, Canberra. Tickets available at [dvcs.org.au/get-involved-supporters/upcoming-events-functions/](http://dvcs.org.au/get-involved-supporters/upcoming-events-functions/).

CONTACT: Mirjana Wilson, DVCS Executive Director

02 6288 1794

2016 Blue & White Gala Ball is sponsored by:

