

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### The Domestic Violence Crisis Service launches their Champions!

“On behalf of the DVCS Board of Governance and staff I am excited to announce our new Champion program to be launched at **6pm on Monday 23 November at ‘As You Like It Café’ at the Street Theatre**. Our Champion program is about encouraging high profile Canberrans to engage with their local network about domestic and family violence” says Executive Director, Mirjana Wilson.

“Becoming an exclusive DVCS Champion is more than just signing a piece of paper and placing a photo on our website. Our Champions have previously expressed an interest in joining the campaign to reduce domestic, family and intimate partner violence. It is that exact reason that we believe our partnership with our Champions will only continue to develop and foster change. We want the program to be beneficial to our Champions, as well as DVCS and the community.”

Ms Wilson tells us “Champions receive information and training in relation to what domestic, family and intimate partner violence is and detailed information about what services DVCS provides to the ACT community. Additionally, our Champions assist us by increasing our network and community engagement, providing advice and guidance in their chosen fields and engaging with children we support as part of our Young People's Outreach Program.”

In addition to their expression of interest, DVCS Champions are leaders in their field, have made a commitment to uphold the DVCS Vision and Objectives and will assist in the ongoing engagement of the wider ACT community in relation to this issue.

**Alan Tongue**, Champion, former Captain and player for the Canberra Raiders says, “I’m honoured to be a DVCS Champion. DVCS is an important service providing 24 hour support for people in need, in tough situations. I hope to continue to support and promote the work DVCS is already doing within Canberra and to continue to educate and raise awareness around family violence with young people.”

“I feel strongly about ending domestic and family violence in Canberra, and around the world. I am honoured to be part of a movement to help educate younger generations.” says **Jessica Bibby**, Champion and UC Capitals Player.

Other DVCS Champions include **Christian Lealiifano**, player with the Brumbies, **Adam Shirley**, Radio Host with ABC 666 and **Amanda Whitley**, creator and director of [www.hercanberra.com.au](http://www.hercanberra.com.au).

Photos of our Champions can be provided upon request to [admin@dvcs.org.au](mailto:admin@dvcs.org.au).

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