

# Notice

(Regarding soon to be published RFT 10024621)

## **Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS)**

### **Recontracting and Tender Process 2020**

#### Background

Legal Aid NSW administers NSW Government funding for the WDVCAS across the state through service agreements with incorporated, non-government providers. Current WDVCAS service agreements end on 30 June 2020.

Following an independent evaluation of the WDVCAS Program in 2018, Legal Aid NSW held consultations across NSW during August to October 2019 regarding proposed changes to the WDVCAS service agreement. This included the proposal to realign WDVCAS boundaries with NSW Police Force boundaries.

#### WDVCAS boundaries from 1 July 2020

After considering feedback from the consultations, WDVCAS boundaries will be realigned with NSW Police Force boundaries from 1 July 2020. This means that the catchment area of each WDVCAS will cover one or more Police Commands or Districts. Due to two WDVCAS amalgamations, there will be 27 WDVCASs across the state.

The boundary realignment will streamline WDVCAS service delivery and ensure women experiencing domestic and family violence do not have to engage with multiple WDVCASs unnecessarily. Funding efficiencies identified through the realignment process will also allow WDVCASs to cover all local courts across the state from 1 July 2020 onwards.

#### WDVCAS service agreements from 1 July 2020

In recognition of the commitment of current WDVCAS providers, and the potentially disruptive nature of tender processes, there will not be an open tender for all WDVCASs from 1 July 2020. Instead, **existing WDVCAS providers will be recontracted where possible.**

An open tender process will, however, be conducted to appoint a provider in locations where two current WDVCAS areas are being amalgamated to form one new WDVCAS area.

Further to this, an open tender process will also be conducted to appoint a provider in locations where **one or more** of the following criteria are met:

- a) The WDVCAS catchment includes new area/s containing more than 15,000 people;

- b) The WDVCS catchment includes new area/s more than 15,000 sq. km in size;
- c) The WDVCS catchment includes one or more additional local courts which list Apprehended Violence Order matters on a weekly basis.

Where an open tender process is conducted, one of the selection criteria will be to demonstrate experience in providing services within the WDVCS catchment area.

#### Next steps

Legal Aid NSW will contact current WDVCS providers individually to discuss arrangements for their area in 2020, in the week commencing Monday, 9 December 2019.

For WDVCS locations where a tender will be conducted, the process will commence in early February 2020. More information will be circulated through the NSW Government eTendering website ([www.tenders.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tenders.nsw.gov.au)).

Information sessions for potential tender applicants will be held in the following locations:

<b>Dubbo</b>	Monday 10 February 9.30am to 11am	Dubbo RSL Club Corner Brisbane Street & Wingewarra Street, Dubbo
<b>Sydney</b>	Tuesday 11 February 10am to 11.30am	NSW Teachers Federation 23-33 Mary Street, Surry Hills
<b>Nowra</b>	Wednesday 12 February 11am to 12.30pm	Shoalhaven Ex-Serviceman's Club 131 Greenwell Point Road, Worrigea
<b>Wagga Wagga</b>	Friday 14 February 9am to 10.30am	International Hotel 2 Lake Albert Road, Wagga Wagga
<b>Coffs Harbour</b>	Monday 17 February 11.30am to 1pm	Coffs Harbour Surf Club 23 Surf Club Road, Coffs Harbour
<b>Newcastle</b>	Tuesday 18 February 9.30am to 11am	Yamuloong Conferencing Centre 71 Prospect Road, Garden Suburb
<b>Parramatta</b>	Wednesday 19 February 10am to 11.30am	Parkroyal Parramatta 30 Phillip Street, Parramatta
<b>Armidale</b>	Friday 21 February 9.30am to 11am	Armidale City Bowling Club 92-96 Dumaresq Street, Armidale

To register for an information session, please visit Eventbrite ([www.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.eventbrite.com.au)).