



Media release

The Hon Mary Wooldridge MP
Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Community Services
Minister for Disability Services and Reform

The Hon Kim Wells MP
Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Minister for Bushfire Response

Thursday 14 August 2014

Expanded services to help those affected by sexual assault and abuse in southern suburbs

- **Napthine Government opens centre for sexual assault services in Seaford**
- **Funding of \$1.2 million to refurbish the centre and to bring Victoria Police, child protection and sexual assault counselling services together at one location**
- **More accessible, responsive services to vulnerable women and children in Melbourne's South-East**

A pioneering service that provides integrated support to adults and children who have experienced sexual assault and abuse is now operating an expanded new facility, Minister for Community Services Mary Wooldridge announced today.

Ms Wooldridge and Minister for Police and Emergency Services Kim Wells, were joined by Member for Carrum Donna Bauer, local police and service providers to officially open the \$1.2 million Multidisciplinary Centre (MDC) in Seaford.

“The centre supports adults and children who have experienced sexual assault and abuse in Melbourne's South-East and is an excellent example of how the Victorian Coalition Government is delivering integrated and comprehensive responses to improve outcomes for vulnerable Victorians,” Ms Wooldridge said.

The MDC which was relocated from Frankston improves safety, support and access to justice services by bringing together Victoria Police, child protection and sexual assault counselling services at the one site.

“Bringing this centre to Seaford has resulted in its significant expansion, and by co-locating key services such as Victoria Police, child protection and specialised counselling services together it can provide better outcomes for adults and children,” Ms Wooldridge said.

Ms Wooldridge said the Seaford site would offer the specialist staff a more spacious, modern and comfortable environment in which to support victims.

Mr Wells said the new facility would accommodate 30 Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT) police members, 12 South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault (SECASA) staff, and seven child protection practitioners.

“The Napthine Government has been operating three successful multidisciplinary centres, in Geelong, Mildura and previously Frankston,” Mr Wells said.

“That is why we are committed to expanding this exceptional service to areas with high demand, including a further three in Bendigo, Dandenong and Morwell.”

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