



Pru Goward

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Mark Speakman

Attorney General

MEDIA RELEASE

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NATIONAL PROTECTION FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

New domestic violence orders will be automatically enforceable across State and Territory borders to increase victim protection, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Pru Goward and Attorney General Mark Speakman announced today.

The National Domestic Violence Order Scheme begins tomorrow to recognise and support International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and White Ribbon Day.

Police will be able to prosecute offenders for breaches of domestic violence orders – even if they occur in a different state.

Ms Goward said the scheme makes it easier for victims and their families to start a new life free from violence.

“Any victim who takes out a new domestic violence order in Australia will only have to go through the process once to receive nationwide protection,” Ms Goward said.

“Making new orders automatically enforceable nationwide reduces stress for victims, who will now not have to navigate different legal systems, or worry about being unprotected if and when they relocate.”

Mr Speakman said NSW was first to introduce laws for the national enforcement of domestic violence orders.

“The laws have now been adopted by every State and Territory to create this seamless national scheme for recognising domestic violence orders,” Mr Speakman said.

Victims who obtained domestic violence orders prior to the scheme starting can apply to a local court registrar in any state or territory to have them recognised.

“Perpetrators will not be informed that the order has been registered elsewhere without the victim’s consent. This is to protect the privacy of victims who don’t want perpetrators to know where they are living,” Mr Speakman said.

The National Domestic Violence Order Scheme was agreed to at a meeting of the Council of Australian Governments in December 2015. NSW led the nation and passed model laws for the Scheme in March 2016.

**MEDIA: Amy Dale | Minister Goward | 0418 910 598
Tom Loomes | Attorney General | 0438 885 951**