

Media Release



5 February 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW LOOK FOR NEW YEAR AT TAREE REFUGE

Samaritans Taree Women and Children's Refuge will this week host a morning tea to thank generous community partners for their contributions and efforts in giving the Refuge a fresh look for the new year.

"The local community have always provided such amazing support to the Refuge, which directly helps women and children who are escaping domestic and family violence from the local area," Michelle Stocks, Samaritans Community Services Manager, said.

With the support of the Taree Lions Club, a purpose-built Intake and Assessment room was created to provide a safe and welcoming space to assist women who are in crisis.

"The Lions Club have been long-term supporters of the Refuge. Their donation also funded all new window coverings throughout the refuge and they were instrumental in linking us with local tradespeople to make the whole refit happen," Ms Stocks said.

The service was also repainted, made possible with funding from the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, Club Taree and the U3A Silver tones. New furnishings were also purchased to complete the update of the refuge.

"We wanted to ensure that the Refuge space provides a safe and calm environment for women and children who need our support, but this would not have been possible without the support of our community partners and suppliers.

"We are blown away every day by the kindness and support from individuals and community organisations who want to make a difference. We have received many wonderful donations which we have been able to distribute to the women and children that we support and we know that these have been gratefully received," Ms Stocks said.

Samaritans relies on the goodwill and generosity of the community, as well as the valuable partnerships formed with local organisations to help continue our work to support people in need.

Taree Women's Refuge provides crisis accommodation and outreach to women and their children who have experienced, or are experiencing, domestic violence.

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Media are invited to contact Laura Dawson from Samaritans Communications team on 4960 7100 or 0438 475 772.

Media are invited to attend the morning tea event on Friday 9th February. Michelle Stocks will be in attendance for interview and/or photo opportunities.

Please call or email Laura Dawson to advise of your attendance and for location details. We ask that you do not take identifying photos outside of the service pre or post event for the safety of people using the service. Michelle will be able to provide direction for imagery.