



## \$4 million in grants for domestic family violence financial counselling

The [Financial Counselling Foundation](#) has just announced a grant of \$100,000 to the [Zahra Foundation](#), to provide financial counselling to women impacted by Domestic Family Violence (DFV) for the next two years.

The grant follows the funding earlier this year of 10 full-time specialist DFV financial counsellor positions for three years around Australia. This brings the total grants for this purpose to over \$4 million.

There was a funding gap in specialist DFV financial counselling services outside Victoria, where the Victorian Government funded 21 positions following the 2015 Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Kae Martin, Interim Director of the Zahra Foundation said, "80 percent of our budget is received through

fund raising but this year due to the South Australian bushfires and COVID-19, our usual fundraising activities have been curtailed.

"This grant will ensure we can continue to support women affected by domestic violence, who need financial counselling."

Jane Nash, CEO of the Financial Counselling Foundation said, "Financial counselling is an essential support to those impacted by domestic violence. With the prevalence of domestic violence increasing following lockdown measures and a rise in unemployment, it is important to ensure access for people who need it."

The organisations that have received a grant for a specialist DFV financial counsellor in mid-2020 are:

- Women's Legal Service NSW
- South West Sydney Legal Centre
- Care Financial Counselling Service
- Women's Legal Service Queensland
- Central Australian Women's Legal Service
- Lutheran Community Care NT
- Women's Legal Service WA
- Jacaranda Community Centre
- Women's Legal Service SA
- Women's Legal Service Tasmania

Up to 95 percent of the clients at women's legal services experience DFV. By adding DFV financial counselling to the services that are already available, as well as to organisations in WA and

NT with predominantly First Nations clients, financial counselling will be more accessible to women impacted by DFV.

The funding is from the Foundation and a donation from ANZ Bank of \$250,000.

### About the Financial Counselling Foundation

The Financial Counselling Foundation is a charitable trust established in December 2017, to increase access to free and independent financial counselling for people with money and debt problems. This was in response to chronic underfunding of financial counselling relative to demand.

### About the Zahra Foundation

The Zahra Foundation is in Adelaide. Named in memory of Zahra Abrahamzede who was killed by her abusive husband at the Adelaide Convention Centre in 2010, it was established collaboratively by Zahra's children and Women's Safety Services SA.

**For comment, contact Jane Nash, CEO, Financial Counselling Foundation, 0407 114 09**