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Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

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Attorney General

Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR \$10 MILLION COVID-19 PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROGRAM**

Applications have opened for eligible grassroots organisations to share in a \$10 million funding package, to support vulnerable people and multicultural communities living in priority areas during the current COVID outbreak.

Minister for Multiculturalism Natalie Ward said the program would support non-Government organisations (NGOs) to link those in need with vital support services, including family and parenting supports, food and essential items, and specialist counselling to address issues such as mental health concerns, drug and alcohol abuse and family and domestic violence.

It will target those needing urgent help in the 12 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of concern, including those who are required to isolate due to COVID-19.

“This program will boost the delivery of more critical services that vulnerable people and multicultural communities are increasingly relying on,” Mrs Ward said.

“The current outbreak is amplifying hardships for already vulnerable people in our community including recent migrants, young people and seniors.

“We know more emergency support is needed now, and the NSW Government is responding quickly.”

The \$10 million COVID-19 Partnership Grants program is part of a \$18.8 million emergency relief package being delivered by the NSW Government, a record amount during this current outbreak.

Attorney General and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence Mark Speakman said listening and responding to community feedback during the pandemic has been a top priority for the Government.

“So many are doing it tough right now, and that includes women and children impacted by domestic violence whose abuse may have been exacerbated due to the lockdown restrictions,” Mr Speakman said.

“Importantly, this program will help those who must isolate due to COVID-19, to make sure they can continue to have access to the support services they need at this critical time.”

Eligible organisations, who already provide proven support services to vulnerable members of the community in the 12 LGAs of concern, will be directly invited by the Department of Communities and Justice to participate in the program.