

# WDVCAS NSW Elder Abuse- A Case Study

*Presented by:*

Renata Field

Director, WDVCAS NSW



**Women's Domestic Violence**  
Court Advocacy Service NSW Inc

Funded by **Legal Aid**  
NEW SOUTH WALES



# About WDVCAS

- WDVCAS NSW is the independent peak body representing the WDVCAS workers and their clients
- 29 Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services across NSW
- Advice, support, help at court, case coordination, information about DFV
- 23 specialist Aboriginal workers
- 13 specialist Multicultural workers



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# Case Study: Introducing Sabina



# Sabina

- 63 years old, Greek background
- Lives in rural NSW with husband of 35 years in family home
- 1 child who lives in London
- Long hospitalisation following a stroke, uses walking frame
- Previous incidents involving police
- Minimisation of violence by Sabina
- “I am homeless in my own home” feels unsafe at home
- Husband has control of the finances
- Husband violent, particularly when intoxicated

# 'Enough is enough'

- Violent incident, November 3 2017
- Neighbours contact Police
- Incident is assessed as at 'Serious Treat' by NSW Police and WDVCAS
- Police charge the client's husband with assault occasioning bodily harm, destroy or damage property, stalk/intimidate intend fear and/or physical harm
- Final AVO protection order was made with conditions 1, 2 and 9

# WDVCAS NSW Contact

- Contact through automatic referral, NSW Police
- Phone support within one business day
- Support at court for the AVO mention date
- Case coordination until case management referral



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# WDVCAS NSW Support

- Phone support, counselling
- Support at court
- Referral to support services including: Local domestic/family violence case management service; GP; legal advice; Staying Home Leaving Violence; Victim's Services Counselling and financial support; community aid
- Advocate with police for Property Recovery Order
- Representation at Safety Action Meeting with Government orgs and NGOs
- Case management in 2 WDVCAS services



# WDVCAS referrals

NSW wide: 1800 938 227

#WDVCASNSW

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[www.wdvcasnsw.org.au](http://www.wdvcasnsw.org.au)

[director@wdvcasnsw.org.au](mailto:director@wdvcasnsw.org.au)



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