

# Media Release

1 November 2016



## Mobile Phone Drop-off to help women in danger

The City of Greater Geelong, Barwon Health and Minerva Community Services are partnering for the *Mobiles For Minerva* campaign as part of the Barwon Month of Action to Stop Men's Violence Against Women and Children.

The campaign, which runs from 28 October 2016 up to 25 November 2016, encourages people to donate their old but working mobile phones and chargers to help women who are in immediate danger of family violence. A number of collection points have been established around the Geelong and Bellarine regions.

Linda Quinn, General Manager Community Life, City of Greater Geelong, urged residents to donate their unused but working mobile phones to this "extremely important community cause".

"Violence against women and children has no boundaries, it affects all sectors of society," Ms Quinn said.

"A campaign of this nature provides an opportunity for members of our community to recycle mobile phones, that may otherwise end up in a drawer, to women at direct risk of violence."

Ms Quinn said the recycling of unused but working mobile phones and chargers could provide an opportunity to decrease isolation as a result of experiencing violence.

"Through this campaign, they can be put to immediate use."

Professor Belinda Moyes, Barwon Health CEO, echoed the importance of accessible communication for women at risk of, or currently experiencing family violence. "Simple access to a mobile phone to make an emergency phone call may be the difference between life and death for many women experiencing violence."

In the last year alone Minerva Community Services received 2847 referrals from the Victoria Police to assist women and children in the Geelong area.

Minerva Community Services Operations Manager Claire Yeatman said there are many reasons why women may need alternative mobile phones.

"In some instances women don't have easy access to their own phone so providing them with a secure mobile phone can help improve their safety dramatically," said Ms Yeatman.

People can drop off their old working mobile phones and chargers to City of Greater Geelong Customer Service Centres (Brougham Street, Drysdale, Belmont and Geelong West), Vitality Café in Highton, Barwon Community Legal Service in Belmont and Women's Health & Wellbeing Barwon South West in central Geelong.

For further information, contact [healthpromotion@barwonhealth.org.au](mailto:healthpromotion@barwonhealth.org.au). People can also donate money to Minerva Community Services at: <http://www.givenow.com.au/minerva>

