3 March 2014

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**SPEAK UP TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN!**

To mark International Women’s Day 2014, Women’s Legal Services NSW is launching a bold new concept to reduce violence against women.

***Speak Up*** Is a website at [speakup.org.au](http://www.speakup.org.au) that raises awareness and empowers everyone to join in sharing ways to reduce violence against women.

It features a handy searchable directory with the key services available across Australia to assist women experiencing violence, the first of its kind. Alex Davis, Women’s Legal Services NSW solicitor, said today:

‘***Speak Up*** looks and feels like an App if you view it on a smartphone, but is actually a website. It’s easy to navigate so women can find the help they need anytime, anywhere, and exit quickly if in danger.”

***Speak Up*** alsogives Australians the opportunity to make their voices count by finishing the sentence “we could reduce violence against women if...” Ms Davis, said:

“We want to start a national conversation about violence against women to increase awareness and decrease the violence.”

 *1 in 3 women in Australia will be victims of domestic violence, and 1 in 5 are victims of sexual violence.*

Responses will be displayed on the website anonymously and used to make practical recommendations to the government on how to end violence against women.

“We want to show that community input is valued and can lead to real change”, Ms Davis said.

***Speak Up*** will be launched on Wednesday 5 March 2014 at Damien Minton Gallery with a silent art auction and live music by Madelaine Lucas ([Devotional](http://devotional.bandcamp.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)), [Lëura](https://soundcloud.com/leura-music%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), and [Louise Millar](https://soundcloud.com/louisemmillar%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). Feminist academic, journalist and co-founder of Destroy the Joint, Jenna Price, will be MC for the evening.

Some of Australia’s finest female artists have donated their works with all money raised going towards helping women to escape violence. Featured artists include Deborah Kelly, Gemma O’Brien, Emma Leonard, Judy Horacek, Jennie Pry, Ev Hales, Helen Paulucci, Sallie Portnoy, Luci Everett, Ken + Julia Yonetani, Takie, Georgia Hill, Carolyn Quan, Spice, Alison See, Zeke, Isobel Markus-Dunworth and Elena Ortega. Anyone can place a bid before event through our online catalogue which can be viewed on the Speak Up Facebook page.

For more information, please contact Alex Davis on **(02) 8745 6900** or **0411 196 608** or email alex.davis@wlsnsw.org.au