

## *Things you should know if you have been removed from your home because of domestic violence*

Under Section 15A of the NSW Crimes Act Subsection 562D 1(b) an Apprehended Violence Order can **'prohibit or restrict access by the defendant to any premise occupied by the protected person'**.

This means that if a person is violent towards their partner and their children that person may be removed from the family home and prevented from returning. It is the responsibility of the police and the courts to protect and keep safe the victims of family violence, particularly the children.

**Ownership of the home is not the issue. The issue is safety.**

Most families just want the violence to stop. If you have been removed or excluded as a result of your violence, the community will help you if you want to change your behaviour.

**The Bega Valley Community takes family violence very seriously. Victims will be supported to stay in their homes. The security of the family home may be upgraded.**

***If you need accommodation:***

**The Department of Housing** can help with temporary accommodation and rent and bond assistance. Office in Auckland Plaza, Bega – **9492 1808**.

***It's a good idea to talk with someone:***

Confidential **24 hour** phone counselling at **Mensline 1300 789 978**

**Southern Area Health Service 24 hour crisis line**

(for people at risk of harming themselves or others) **1800 677 114**

**Or Lifeline 131 114**

***Local counselors may be available through:***

your Doctor, Family Support Service **6492 3411** or Centacare **1800 800 517**  
Katungal Medical Health Center **6492 0532**

***If you are interested in changing your behaviour, you can contact:***

the Probation and Parole Service to discuss your participation in a group-based program.  
Call the Bega District office on **6492 3144**

***If you need income support:***

there is a crisis payment available at Centrelink in Church St, Bega. Contact **131 021**.

***For legal Aid 1800 888 529***

Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre **1800 229 529**  
Aboriginal Legal Service **4474 2400**.