

Kempsey Women's Refuge in partnership with Kempsey Family Support Service are excited to inform the community and service providers about the **Speakout4Kids** project which has now kicked off in Kempsey.

Natalie Smee heads up the project as the Project Case Manager. Natalie brings extensive knowledge and experience of the community and working in the field of domestic and family violence. The project will also be employing another person as assistant project development officer, which will be advertised beginning 7th August 2012.

The '**Speakout4Kids**' project aims to educate and inform families, community members and staff across a wide spectrum of agencies on the impact of domestic and family violence on children. This will incorporate promoting and developing a community working together towards '*zero tolerance*' of domestic and family violence to protect and nurture our children.

The purpose of the project is to:

- Deliver the '*Kids Can*' training to staff across a broad section of the sector working, or in contact with children.
- Offer group work to women and children impacted by domestic and family violence.
- Provide smooth referral pathways for children and families which link them with resources, supports in the Macleay Valley and other specialist service providers if required.
- Raise awareness of the importance of the *shared responsibility* of parents, families and the community working together to ensure children's safety and wellbeing is the prime concern and focus.
- Research and develop an '*Assessment tool kit*' for services to assist in identifying children experiencing the ongoing effects of domestic and family violence.

Often our children's voices go unheard; therefore this project is fundamental to creating change to ensure children are our main concern. The safety and wellbeing of children is '*everyone's*' business.

As the project rolls out the information about the above opportunities will be delivered through a variety of media and direct to service communication to ensure everyone is fully informed.

For more information please call: Natalie Smee p: 6563 1092 m: 0488 631 099
email: kwrpcm@bigpond.com