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MEDIA RELEASE

Goolwa's safe haven to curb family violence risk

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The Fleurieu community will benefit from a new safety hub 'The Haven', which has been operating since early January 2022 and will official be launched in Goolwa on Friday, 11 February 2022. Minister David Basham MP will be joined by Alexandrina Council's Mayor Keith Parkes and Acting CEO Elizabeth Williams, General Manager Wellbeing, Kathryn Gallina and volunteers.

The Haven will provide valuable services such as information, advice, support and referrals for men, women, and children, who are experiencing or at risk of family violence.

Alexandrina Council in partnership with the State Government Office for Women recently established the safety hub at the Goolwa Library and is the newest addition to a network of regional safety hubs across South Australia, including Mount Barker, Murray Bridge, Mount Gambier, Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Gawler and Berri.

The Haven's specially trained volunteers, who are fully supported by staff at the Office for Women, ensure individuals and families are getting access to appropriate information and referrals for specialist domestic, family and sexual violence services, counselling, housing, legal, financial, community programs and other supports they require, in a safe and understanding environment.

The Haven aims to provide local access to early information, referrals and support in order to prevent people from reaching crisis point. While The Haven provides support for anyone, there is a particular focus on women who represent the overwhelming majority of victims of domestic and family violence.

The Haven is open 10am-2pm Monday to Friday, Goolwa Library, 11 Cadell Street, Goolwa. Drop-in and say hello. No appointment necessary.

Alexandrina Council's Mayor Keith Parkes is pleased to see a dedicated service to improving the safety of those experiencing (or at risk of) domestic, family and sexual violence in our region.

"This particular hub is going to be very important for people in the Alexandrina community who want access to face-to-face support from volunteers. We are very proud to develop The Haven in Goolwa and give our community and the broader Fleurieu region access to this information in a safe space and welcoming environment," he said.

For more information please visit www.officeforwomen.sa.gov.au/womens-information-service/outreach-centres