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The Law and Your
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ART BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS ON DISPLAY AT CAMPBELLTOWN

A group of women, who have suffered domestic violence, have told their stories in artworks to be displayed at an Aboriginal art exhibition at Campbelltown Courthouse.

The exhibition, to be launched on the first day of Law Week (Monday, May 11), features paintings by the Macarthur-based Aboriginal Women's Group who have also written a book about their experiences of domestic violence titled "Sister Girl Yarnz".

"Domestic violence is a crime that often goes unreported and it is hoped that the courage displayed by the Women's Group in speaking out will inspire others to report abuse," said Gary Stewart, Aboriginal Client Services Specialist at Campbelltown Courthouse.

Local artists Randall Green, Jan Shipley and Allison Croall have contributed contemporary decorative designs and traditional Aboriginal weavings to the exhibition. Mr Stewart said the exhibition would also include art by detainees at Reiby Juvenile Justice Centre.

"It is heartening to see young Aboriginal people in custody developing their artistic skills and taking positive steps towards rehabilitation," Mr Stewart said.

A judging panel, featuring a District Court judge and a magistrate, will inspect the artworks and award prizes at the exhibition launch.

Mr Stewart said the Law Week exhibition, which is in its third year, was symbolic of the increasingly cooperative relationship between the courts and the local Aboriginal community.

The Aboriginal art exhibition will be held from **11 May to 22 May**. Selected artworks will be for sale, with all proceeds to go directly to the artist.

Other Law Week events in the Macarthur region will include a legal services open day at Campbelltown Council Civic Centre on 14 May and a mock trial at the University of Western Sydney on 15 May.

Events will be held nationwide during Law Week to promote community understanding of the law and its important role in society.

The launch of the art exhibition will be held from 6pm-8pm, Monday 11 May at Campbelltown Courthouse, corner of Railway Parade and Hurley St.