



# SAFE LANDING PROJECT

## PATHWAYS TO SAFETY AND LEGAL PROTECTION FOR MIGRANT WOMEN

### Summary

The Safe Landing Project extends the model of integrated migration and family violence related law – as piloted within the two-year Indian Women’s Family Violence Project – to all women experiencing family violence on temporary visas in Melbourne’s north-west.

### Context

In early 2019, Northern Community Legal Centre undertook the Indian Women’s Family Violence Project, a two-year investigative pilot project funded by the Victorian Legal Services Board. The Project developed a model of integrated legal, migration and family violence support, combined with community education and engagement for migrant women from India.

Our Project findings confirmed that women on temporary visas experience disproportionate frequency and severity of family violence, and that migration status is a significant barrier to leaving the abusive relationship or addressing the violence.

The Indian Family Violence Project assisted 164 women over the two-year period. The Project pilot proved to be phenomenally successful, enabling many of these women to find safety and establish themselves free from risk of violence. The integration of migration law, family law and family violence legal responses were critical to the success of the pilot, as these areas of law often impact upon each other.

## The Safe Landing Project

The Safe Landing Project extends this model to include all women on temporary visas who are experiencing family violence in Melbourne's north-west. Recognising that women arriving in Australia on student or visitor visas are often ineligible for assistance from other services, NCLC will provide a coordinated response inclusive of legal advice, family violence support and community education to enhance and streamline safety pathways for highly vulnerable women and their children.

The Safe Landing model intervenes at the earliest possible point. It sustains support for the women who engage with it and uses service integration to solve their complex legal and practical issues. The client education and integrated service delivery aspects of the model increase the likelihood of clients being assisted before the need for police involvement and court hearings. It also ensures clients are educated about Victoria's family violence response systems, saving time and cost.

**For further information about NCLC's Safe Landing Project, please contact:  
NCLC CEO, Jenni Smith  
Email: [jsmith@northernclc.org.au](mailto:jsmith@northernclc.org.au)  
Phone: 0499 880 250**

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