INVITATION to a Focus Group Consultation
To help develop DV-Awareness Training on violence against women with disabilities

WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP
Lifeline Australia’s DV-Alert is a nationally recognised training program funded by the Department of Social Services as a key action under the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and Their Children. Since 2011, the 2-day DV-Alert training course has been offered, free of charge, to the health, allied health and community frontline workers. The training enables frontline workers to confidently:
- RECOGNISE signs of domestic and family violence
- RESPOND with appropriate care
- REFER people experiencing or at risk of domestic and family violence to appropriate support services

At the moment, there is no information in the training which would help the staff and volunteers of a community organisation understand what it is like to experience violence as a woman with disabilities. Nor do they know how to respond if a woman with disabilities asks for help.
In this Focus Group you are invited to share your expertise about violence.

DV-Alert already has 3 other specialized training workshops - about domestic and family violence experienced by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander women; about that experienced by women of Non-English-Speaking Background; and the experience of women who are clients of Settlement Services.

WHAT THE FOCUS GROUP WILL DO
Lifeline Australia wants to consult with you, as a women with disabilities who is currently seeking support for domestic or family violence or sexual assault, no matter where you live, or how long ago you had these experiences, or where you are now on a pathway to establish safety.

In the Focus Groups we will explore what information you have used already or might need, and the referral or support pathways that have worked in order for you to establish a more secure and safe life wherever you live.

1 www.dvalert.org.au/
Focus groups will run for 2.5 hours, with a break for refreshments. Lifeline will pay for your travel costs to get to the Focus Group. There will be payment in the form of a Wish Gift Card to the value of $50. You can bring a support person of your choice if needed. Just let us know when you RSVP.

**WHEN:** Tuesday 6 June 2017  
**TIME:** 1:00pm to 3:30pm  
**AT:**  
Rydges Sydney Airport  
8 Arrival Court, Sydney International Airport NSW 2020  
(Wheelchair Access & Hearing Loop available)

Because of the nature of the material we will discuss, there will be a counsellor there for you to talk to if needed.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS WHEN YOU RSVP,**  
e.g. AUSLAN Interpreter, whether you are bringing someone to help you.

**RSVP:** by **MONDAY 29 May** to: Sue Salthouse, sudata@optusnet.com.au (Didactic Enterprises)

Please complete the form below and return to:  
Sue Salthouse  
Didactic Enterprises  
sudata@optusnet.com.au  
24/14 Trevillian Quay  
Kingston, ACT 2604

**NOTE:** If you are not able to attend in person and would like to give your feedback, please contact Sue at sudata@optusnet.com.au for a written feedback form or to arrange a phone interview.
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NAME: ________________________________________________________________

CONTACT EMAIL: ______________________________________________________

CONTACT PHONE: ______________________________________________________

PARTICIPATION NEEDS: ____________________________________________
                                                                                       _____________________________________________
                                                                                       _____________________________________________
                                                                                       _____________________________________________

I NEED ASSISTANCE WITH TRAVEL (circle one): -- YES NO

ADDRESS: __________________________________________________________
                                                                                       _____________________________________________
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                                                                                       _____________________________________________
                                                                                       _____________________________________________

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