

LILYDALE

Pet-friendly safehouses

Havens shelter women and animals

Laura Armitage

WOMEN and children fleeing violent family situations will no longer face leaving their pets behind.

Eastern Family Violence Service, EDVOS, has announced three pet-friendly crisis accommodation properties for women and children located in the east. These safe houses include kennels, pet food and animal comforts.

The non-profit organisation is also working with Women's Liberation Halfway House to provide the first pet-friendly Victorian women's refuge by June—it will be the third in the country.

For safety reasons the exact

location of these properties cannot be revealed.

EDVOS executive director Jenny Jackson said she was relieved to be able to offer crisis accommodation that welcomed pets.

She said the crisis properties could save both human and animals lives.

"Hundreds of women, children and their beloved pets across Victoria are constrained in violent relationships because the fear of leaving are just too overwhelming," Ms Jackson said.

"The knowledge these shelters are out there, and that they are increasing in numbers is a bright spot in the ugly reality of family violence".



HARMONIC TRIBUTE TO HOMETOWN

A FOURTH generation Healesville woman will bid farewell to her hometown with a special goodbye.

Opera singer Genevieve Dickson, 30, will perform a solo concert at the The Memo at 7.30pm on April 7, before she heads off to Sydney.

Dickson, who has been performing since she was 17, said she wanted to give back to the community who has always been her support base.

The mezzo-soprano specialises in songs by composers Gioachino Rossini and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and will be accompanied by pianist, Jane Matheson.

Details: ach.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Singer Genevieve Dickson is putting on a goodbye show of opera arias at The Memo in Healesville. Picture: STEVE TANNER



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