



KIDS  
FIRST™



# Emse's story

**“ Recognising the autonomy and decision making of the individual, The Orange Door fundamentally shifted the way family violence services were offered to the community. Kids First is proud to be at the forefront of this change”**

- Aileen Ashford, Chief Executive Officer

Esme is an older woman who had been in a very long-term and abusive relationship since she was young.

She had never managed her own money. So it was a huge first step for her to do something many of us would take for granted and did when we were young - she got her own bank account.

It took months of engagement and work, but she was so happy when she was able to do this and deposit her own money.

## Professional Statement

**“ The Orange Door offers a unique approach where both the emotional and practical needs of victim survivors can be explored. Esme had never had control of her own finances. And for her, this was a big step.**

*Every day, team members at NEMA Orange Door empower women as victim survivors of family violence.*

*Often, as with Esme, this begins with the act of listening. To hear and believe a woman's story and to acknowledge her bravery in keeping herself and her children safe. She has survived. We can partner with her to build on this strength.”*



## The Orange Door

Caregiver, Family, Kid , Professional

The North Eastern Melbourne (NEMA) Orange Door is a free service for adults, children and young people who are experiencing or have experienced family violence and families who need extra support with the care of children. The Orange Door provides immediate practical support, including accessing safe interim accommodation as well as counselling, accessing legal and financial services and finding long term housing options.

To find out more about  
Kids First, visit our website  
[kidsfirstaustralia.org.au](https://kidsfirstaustralia.org.au)

\*For privacy, names have been changed in this client story