

ADVOCACY REPORT: December 2024

White Ribbon Day Silent March and Distribution of 2000 Ribbons

The escalation of recent 'intimate homicides' in WA due to Family and Domestic Violence reinforce how vital the 16 Days of Activism is to develop allies of all ages and genders to achieve our vision that 'No woman lives in fear of violence.'

On the 29th of November, Advocacy committee members were joined by members of other committees for the Bunbury White Ribbon Day Silent March and the service that followed.

Zonta Bunbury made a real impact in their orange T-shirts and vests, with President-Elect Jo Lewis laying the club's wreath.

500 white ribbons produced with help from the Kingia Z club were distributed to the public.

A moving service highlighted the following:

34% of young men believe that violence is expected of them to demonstrate their manliness.

Little boys are good men waiting to flourish.

Coercive control including isolation, humiliation and gas lighting are impacting victims who are forced to stay because there is nowhere else to go! Together we can stop the violence.

The guest speaker runs a Choose Change program addressing Men's behaviour. This program is part of the Family and Domestic violence team within the Bunbury Police. Men volunteer for this program.

Violence is serious and preventable. The aim is to focus on gender equality, and developing respectful behaviour.

86 women, 10 from WA, had died from FDV homicides in Australia. Tragically, another one in WA was reported on 30th Nov, making it 87. Last year the national total was 64.

42% of FDV cases needed housing, 52% of all assaults involve FDV. **89% of perpetrators had experienced FDV before committing it.**

Researcher Eva Cox – 'How do we stop men feeling entitled to do it?' Boys will be what we teach them to be.

Rather than calling men out on their behaviour, hold them accountable to stop disrespect at its inception.

Making those who are disrespectful accountable will require us all to:

1. Take ACTION to raise awareness, advocate for policy change and ensure perpetrators take responsibility.
2. EDUCATE AND INFORM - Understand the causes of FDV and acknowledge the root causes.
3. EDUCATE AND SUPPORT – Offer support to raise funds.

We must create a safer and supportive environment.

Sobering Data

Internationally - 1 woman is killed by Family and Domestic Violence every 10 minutes.

We must stop the sexist jokes, the practice of asserting dominance over partners and provide a better role model for young men and boys.

PROPOSED ACTION – Continue to lobby politicians for policy change and increased funding to support victim/survivors with trauma counselling as well as men’s behaviour change programs. With Sally Talbot, MP retiring her replacement will be contacted re the issue of perpetrators not being able to complete mandated behaviour change courses due to lack of facilitators.

Breaking news. On 19th November the State government pledged emergency funding for Men’s Behaviour Change programs in Bunbury, Northam and Albany.

WHITE RIBBON PRODUCTION TEAM!



Bridgetown 30th November and Bunbury markets 7th December

Thank you to Ingrid Hilario and Carol Carter who distributed 500 ribbons and received \$350 in donations from Bridgetown and to all Bunbury Zontians and Kingia Z Club members who distributed 1000 ribbons at the Bunbury markets receiving \$200 in donations for Harbour (SW Women’s Refuge).

Conversations while giving out White Ribbons in Bridgetown and at the Bunbury Markets demonstrated the increased awareness of major changes needed to repair and prevent the trauma experienced by many. Progress may take time but we must continue to advocate and work to achieve a ‘Better World for Women and Girls’.

Tyrl Houghton
Chair Advocacy Committee