

White Ribbon Day – Eliminating Violence Against Women

Violence against women is arguably one of the most pervasive and shameful violations of human rights in the world today and the results can be catastrophic. Intimate partner and sexual violence affect a large proportion of the population – with the majority of those directly experiencing such violence being women and the majority perpetrating it being men. The harm they cause can last a lifetime and span generations, with serious adverse affects on health, education and employment.

Studies conducted here in Victoria show that partner violence impacts significantly on the health of women accounting for 7.9% of the overall disease burden in women of reproductive age and is a larger risk to health than factors such as raised blood pressure, tobacco use and increased body weight.

Brendan Stackpole, Deputy Principal Lawyer with Peninsula Community Legal Centre, is a White Ribbon Ambassador. White Ribbon Day, November 25, coincided with International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and is a male-led campaign that aims to engage men to end all forms of violence against women.

White Ribbon focuses on the positive roles that men can play to create a culture where violence, and attitudes that support the use of violence, are increasingly unacceptable.

Mr. Stackpole says, “If I was asked to identify the single most important factor in tackling violence against women, I would have to say that it would be the need for a change of community attitudes about family violence, and especially violence against women, because we know statistically women are more likely to be victims and that violence is more likely to occur within an intimate relationship”.

“The attitudinal change I am referring to is what White Ribbon Day is about. It’s about the need to change attitudes that allow violence against women to occur, including the attitude of both men and women that violence in intimate relationships is no one else’s business and the attitudes that allow our society to tolerate violence, especially violence against women.

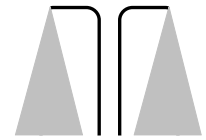
“White Ribbon Day gives us all an opportunity to reflect on our own attitudes and behaviours and to promote equal and respectful relationships and non-violent social norms”.

Peninsula Community Legal Centre provides free legal assistance for people who live, work or study within its catchment area and operates a duty lawyer service at the Frankston Magistrates’ Court for family violence matters. Each year Peninsula Community Legal Centre assists hundreds of clients through this duty lawyer service.

For more information about free legal services or to make an appointment, contact Peninsula Community Legal Centre on 9783 3600 or visit www.pclc.org.au .
ENDS.

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