

WHITE RIBBON DAY – An Ambassador’s Perspective

Peninsula Community Legal Centre was proud to support White Ribbon Day on November 25. The Day, which coincides with International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, is a male-led campaign that aims to engage men to end 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.

Brendan Stackpole, Senior Family Lawyer at Peninsula Community Legal Centre and White Ribbon Ambassador, says:

“The issue of violence, especially the high incidence of violence against women, is a major concern for Peninsula Community Legal Centre and affects many of our clients.

As part of my role as an Ambassador for the White Ribbon Campaign, I am trying to raise awareness about the need for cultural change when we talk about family violence, and violence more broadly. This cultural change is necessary to change the attitudes that allow violence to occur, namely:

- The attitude of both men and women that violence in intimate relationships is no one else’s business; and
- The attitude that allows our society to tolerate violence, and more particularly as far as White Ribbon is concerned, violence against women.

The White Ribbon Campaign is all about putting men at the forefront of that cultural change, because men are more likely to be perpetrators than women, and if change is to occur, the issue of violence must be seen more broadly than just as a women’s issue – it is also a men’s issue, and one that mostly occurs in the context of relationships. Although statistically men are more likely to be the victims of violence from a stranger, women are more likely to suffer harm at the hands of an intimate partner, usually male.

It is therefore up to men to take a stand. By remaining silent we can be seen to be complicit. Men who care about the issue need to help other men to see violence as unacceptable, and we can do that in what we say and do.”

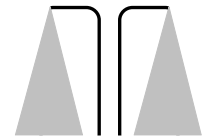
Peninsula Community Legal Centre is a non-profit organisation that provides free legal services. For more information about the White Ribbon Campaign, visit www.whiteribbonday.org.au. For information about free legal services, contact Peninsula Community Legal Centre on 9783 3600 or visit www.pclc.org.au.

END.

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Contact:

ANDREA STAUNTON (FLORANCE)
GENERAL MANAGER - VOLUNTEER & EDUCATION PROGRAMS
PENINSULA COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC.
Tel: (03) 9783 3600 Extension 34



Peninsula Community
Legal Centre Inc

Registered No. A8T
ABN 23 591 244 622

Head Office
Chatsworth House
Suite 1-4
431 Nepean Highway
Frankston Vic 3199

Tel 03 9783 3600
Fax 03 9770 5200
Free Call 1800 064 784
DX 19953 Frankston
Email pclc@pclc.org.au
www.pclc.org.au

Bentleigh Branch
82 Brady Road
Bentleigh East Vic 3165

Tel 03 9570 8455
Fax 03 9570 8466

Cranbourne Branch
Bella Centre
Suite 12
33-39 High Street
Cranbourne Vic 3977

Tel 03 5995 3722
Fax 03 5995 3799

Pines Branch
2A Candlebark Crescent
Frankston North Vic 3200

Tel 03 9786 6980
Fax 03 9785 3582

Rosebud Branch
1375 Point Nepean Road
Rosebud Vic 3939

Tel 03 5981 2422
Fax 03 5981 2488

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