

PCLC WANTS MEN TO SWEAR ON WHITE RIBBON DAY

PCLC and White Ribbon Foundation are calling on all Australian men to sign up and 'swear' to end violence against women, as the first step in creating culture change around the issue.

November 25 is International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women – White Ribbon Day.

The White Ribbon Foundation aims to engage men in the campaign to end violence against women through the creation of respectful relationships with 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, Solicitor in charge of the Family Law Program at Peninsula Community Legal Centre, has taken up the challenge of becoming a White Ribbon Ambassador and is encouraging all men to challenge violence-supporting attitudes and behaviours.

"You only need to look to the statistics to see the prevalence of violence towards women in our society. One in three women will experience physical violence and one in five women will experience sexual violence over their lifetime. This is because as a society we tolerate disrespectful attitudes towards women, which lead to these behaviours", says Brendan.

"I have sworn never to commit, excuse, or stay silent about violence against women and I am asking all men to sign up and 'swear' on November 25 to end violence against women. This is the first step in creating culture change around the issue of violence towards 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".

You can join Brendan by swearing at www.myoath.com.au

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

"Family violence provisions in the *Crimes (Family Violence) Act*, have been broadened to include other than physical or sexual abuse, behaviour that is emotionally or psychologically abusive, economically abusive, threatening, coercive or in other ways controlling or dominating".

On White Ribbon Day, Brendan Stackpole will be proudly wearing his white ribbon, and he encourages you to do the same. Ribbons and wristbands are available from Suzanne Grae, The Body Shop and The Salvos Stores.

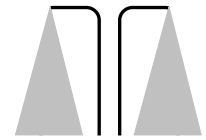
Should you require legal advice please contact Peninsula Community Legal Centre on 9783 3600.

END.

Date 2009

Contact:

ANDREA FLORANCE
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.communitylaw.org.au/peninsula

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

**We gratefully acknowledge
the financial assistance of:**

- Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department
- Department of Justice (Vic)
- Consumer Affairs Victoria
- Victoria Legal Aid
- City of Casey
- City of Glen Eira
- City of Kingston
- Frankston City Council
- Mornington Peninsula Shire

**Donations over \$2.00
are tax deductible**

*Service to the
Community
since 1977*

