



Breaking the silence on Domestic Violence!

Description

This week the Ingham Police and Hinchinbrook Community support centre held a White Ribbon Australia event on Wednesday of this week, 25th November, 2020. This joint event aimed to raise awareness about White Ribbon Australia's work and work to end men's violence against women.

"Violence against women is at epidemic proportions. Devastatingly, over 12 months, on average, one woman is killed every week as a result of intimate partner violence."
White Ribbon Australia

Remember the women; these victims are not just statistics. They are wives, mothers, sisters, daughters, grand-daughters, aunts, nieces, friends, colleagues. Perhaps they are people you know, or maybe this is your experience. Silence about the situation provides an opportunity for the violence to continue and in most cases, escalate.

While murder is the most extreme form of domestic violence, it is only one part of the spectrum of violence against women. This spectrum includes financial, verbal, emotional, psychological, physical and sexual abuse, as well as workplace harassment. They all form part of a devastating cycle of violence. (White Ribbon Australia)
White Ribbon Australia

While the aim of the joint event in Ingham this week was to raise awareness and funds which will support work to end violence against women. The event was also a means to encourage our community to stand up, to voice their concerns regarding this serious problem.

Violence against women is not a private issue; it is a community issue. It is all our responsibility to support causes to end this cycle. It is our responsibility to speak up against any form of domestic violence.

Event organisers want people to know that violence against women is unacceptable. It is never the

victim's fault, help is available, and if you see something, you should definitely say something. People need to know that they can make a difference. Ending men's violence against women takes a community approach.

We should all consider these statistics supplied by White Ribbon Australia:

- A woman is most likely to be killed by a male partner in their home;
- Domestic and family violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women (and children);
- Intimate family violence is the leading contributor to death, disability and ill health of women aged between 15 and 44 in Australia;
- One in three women have experienced physical and or sexual violence perpetrated by someone known to them;
- One in four children will be exposed to domestic violence which is a recognised form of child abuse. (White Ribbon Australia statistics)

While there are also women who are violent toward their male partners the statistics provide us with a much clearer view of this. A study conducted by Penal Reform International found that the number of women who have committed violent crimes is 'very small' in comparison (to men). Also, women are more likely to be victims rather than perpetrators. However, when women have been convicted of murder or manslaughter, in a significant number of cases, the victim is a male partner or a male family member, and there is a history of domestic violence. So please consider this point.

"Women are more likely to be victims rather than perpetrators"

Penalreform.org

Violence against women needs to stop. The work of White Ribbon Australia and local organisations such as Hinchinbrook Community Support Centre and our Police are the key to changing how we face violence against women. Each of us, though in the community, must do their bit to support this work.



Date Created

28/11/2020

Author

avardanega