25 November 2010

Territory Men asked to “Swear and Wear” on White Ribbon Day

Men in the Northern Territory are today being urged to take the oath to end men’s violence against women in support of White Ribbon Day – the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Women’s Policy Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy said she was personally asking all Territory men to swear to never commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women.

“White Ribbon Day is the largest campaign in the world focusing on the need to end men’s violence against women and I urge everyone to support it,” said Ms McCarthy.

“By taking the oath our men can add their support to the example shown by 39 prominent Territory men from various sections of the community who have signed on as the NT’s White Ribbon Ambassadors.

“The Henderson Labor Government condemns all forms of violence and that is why we introduced the mandatory reporting of domestic and family violence in March last year.

“Since then the number of recorded assaults in domestic violence increased by 22 percent – or by 743 offences – from 3433 to 4176.

“While, for the same period recorded assaults that were not related to domestic violence increased by 6 percent – or by 226 offences from 3514 to 3740.

“In 2009/10 financial year of the 612 recorded assaults, 497 or 81 percent were domestic violence related - this is a shocking result and the Territory Government says enough is enough.

“White Ribbon Day 2010 also marks one year since the launch of the Be Someone advertising campaign that targeted domestic violence and encouraged people to report it.

“Congratulations to all those actively involved in the campaign for their great work in raising awareness about this important issue.”

The White Ribbon Foundation has set the target at one million men to swear the White Ribbon Day oath – at www.myoath.com.au – and to wear a White Ribbon or Wristband as a visual symbol of that commitment.

Minister McCarthy will attend the White Ribbon Breakfast on Thursday 25 November at the Holiday Inn Esplanade, Darwin at 7.00a.m.

White Ribbon Day events are being held in Darwin, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. Details of all events are available on the Office of Women's Policy website at www.women.nt.gov.au.

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