

15/11/23

I would firstly like to thank the Federal Member for Richmond, Assistant Minister for Social Services and the Prevention of Family Violence Justine Elliot for her kind invitation to launch our Rotary led national campaign that says 'No to Domestic and Family Violence' here at Parliament House Canberra, our National home of Democracy.

Thank you, Federal Member for Moncrief Angie Bell, for her invitation to visit Parliament House in September and connecting us with Federal Members of parliament to gain tri-partisan support for our campaign. Welcome other members of Parliament, Welcome past, present and future Rotary District Governors, fellow Rotarians, Rotary Friends and Friends of Rotary.

Last year 57 women were killed in Domestic and Family Violence circumstances by males in Australia. In the first 30 weeks of 2023 the Red Heart campaign noted 35 women were killed by a current or former partner.

This current year we are faced with an even more confronting reality that as of November the 1st we had 6 women in 10 days across Australia lose their life by violence inflicted by men. This brings the total of women's deaths related to domestic and family violence this year to 58. More than one daughter, mother, sister, friend or partner a week. These numbers hide the true reality of this major social issue. *

How is it that we are unable to protect these women? All of us here today are leaders in our communities and we need to 'Break the Silence and End the Violence.'

Rotary is the pulse of the communities we serve. We have more Rotary clubs than McDonalds Restaurants in our towns and cities. Let's all connect and work together to advocate and educate our

National Launch of Rotary led Domestic and Family Violence Campaign, Parliament House Canberra.
Campaign Lead, Rotary District Governor Dave Harmon.
15/11/23

communities about the crisis we face with Domestic and Family Violence.

So, what is Rotary doing?

We have a call to Action. 'Break the Silence and End the Violence'

We ask our local, state and federal government representatives to join us. Partner with us like NSW Police have. We cannot do this on our own. We have a whole of community model approach to this campaign. This is how we will achieve positive outcomes.

Rotary has a proud history of leading the way with social issues. Back in 1937 Sydney was experiencing a problem with youth related crime. The then NSW Police Commissioner partnered with the Rotary Club of Sydney to form the first Police Citizens Youth Club. This model was then adopted throughout Australia.

We have always risen to the challenges that face our communities. It is time for us all to 'Break the Silence to End this Violence'.

Today I am pleased to share with you that Rotary will lead peaceful walks planned in the CBDs of Adelaide, Sydney, Brisbane, Darwin and Canberra with activities planned in Perth, Launceston, Melbourne, Gold Coast and many regional towns and cities during the 16 Days of Activism. Our National Day of Action is Friday the 1st of December.

We are people of Action. Join us, partner with us, be the voice of change, break the silence and end this violence. Together we can 'Create Hope in the World'.

Yours in Service

District 9640 Rotary District Governor

Dave Harmon

*Australian Femicide Watch