

White Ribbon Day video – Transcript

3 Male staff members repeat

I will stand up

3 Male staff members repeat

Speak out

3 Male staff members repeat

And act

3 Male staff members repeat

To prevent men's violence

Male staff member

Against women

Narration

It's a simple oath but the message is clear. Violence of any kind is unacceptable.

Barry Jackson, Family and Domestic Violence Senior Leader

White Ribbon is an important campaign for our community. I'm proud to work for a department that is taking positive action to support those affected by family and domestic violence. As an organisation that interacts with so many Australians on a daily basis, we're able to make a real difference by taking a stand, raising awareness and providing help.

Narration

It's an issue close to many. For Barry it was a call to police in his early twenties for a neighbour in obvious distress.

Barry Jackson

The police came very, very quickly. They took the person, the man, away. He never came back. The lady, unfortunately, left with the assistance of an ambulance. I was outside at the time, talking to the police, and I still have a very vivid memory of that occasion in my mind now. And I have a very, stronger, memory of the lady on the gurney going into the ambulance mouthing the word 'thank you' to me.

Narration

To mark the day, staff from the department were joined by representatives from the Australian Federal Police in a joint event to show our support.

Ray Johnson, Assistant Commissioner, Australian Federal Police

The Department of Human Services and the Australian Federal Police are both very large, very influential organisations in the community. We have a lot to do with the community of Australia. We are the face of the government, often, and us joining together in a common message about the importance of preventing violence against women and violence of all types is really important, I think, as leaders in the community.

Narrator

Andrew O'Keefe was the guest speaker. Well known for his work on Weekend Sunrise, Andrew is a proud ambassador, helping establish White Ribbon in 2003.

Andrew O’Keefe, White Ribbon Ambassador

Fourteen years ago, we had twelve people standing in a public square in Sydney shaking passers-by down to take a ribbon, trying to get them interested in the issue. This week in 2017, we have about 1400 community events right around Australia which are being driven by communities themselves.

Narrator

The Department of Human Services is a recognised leader in providing support and referrals for those affected by family and domestic violence.

Angela Ford, Emergency Management and Family Safety

It is really important that everybody who is affected by domestic violence is offered the appropriate referral for support. So we’re really proud to support White Ribbon day and we also have really great relationships with Mensline, Family Relationships Advice Line and 1800RESPECT.

Narrator

White Ribbon day is about starting the conversation and the powerful role we can all play in stopping family and domestic violence.

Andrew O’Keefe

My vision, you know, for a world where all of my kids are truly equal. Where they do have the same access to success. They do have to same opportunities for happiness and self-fulfilment, as my sons do. And where they’re in the best possible kinds of relationships in which respect and dignity and love are shared and in which violence and intimidation are never acceptable in any form.

Narrator

If you or someone you know is experiencing family violence, call the National Family and Domestic Counselling Service on 1800 RESPECT or go to www.humanservices.gov.au/enough