

Thursday, 5 December 2024

## City of Ryde takes a stand against domestic violence

The City of Ryde has reaffirmed its commitment to ending violence against women this November as part of its accreditation as a White Ribbon Australia workplace.

Coinciding with White Ribbon Day on 25 November 2024, Council engaged staff and the wider community in raising awareness and driving positive change to end violence against women through the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign. This important campaign pledges to build communities where women are safe and equal and culminates on Human Rights Day on 10 December.

City of Ryde hosted a series of impactful events to bring people together to reflect and act in 2024.

Highlights included a breakfast BBQ at the City's Operations Centre featuring Darryl Gardiner, a powerful speaker sharing his journey of overcoming cycles of violence. An afternoon tea at Pope Street gave Ryde Police Liaison Officers a platform to discuss their work in addressing domestic violence, while an employee lunch at the City of Ryde head office provided another opportunity for employees to hear Mr Gardiner's inspiring story.

City of Ryde Mayor Trenton Brown and Council staff also joined the *Make A Stand* community walk at Macquarie University precinct, standing in solidarity against domestic, family, and sexual violence.

Mayor Brown said: "Ending violence against women requires action, awareness, and a united community effort. The City of Ryde is committed to being part of the solution by fostering respect, providing support, and working tirelessly to create a future where everyone feels safe and valued."

To amplify the message, Council launched an awareness campaign with translated posters, brochures, and digital content across Council buildings, social media, and digital screens.

"As a White Ribbon Accredited Workplace, the City of Ryde is dedicated to fostering a culture of respect and safety. Our recent initiatives reflect our commitment to preventing violence against women and supporting those affected within our community," said City of Ryde CEO Wayne Rylands.

City of Ryde employees also participated in a toy drive - donating toys and books for children from families escaping domestic violence - ensuring a brighter Christmas for those in need. To further Council's commitment, employees were also encouraged to complete Domestic Violence Awareness Training, building their understanding of how to address and prevent abuse.

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