

WHITE RIBBON DAY

Statement by Minister for Community Development

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah - Minister for Community Development) [9.16 am]: The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, more commonly known as White Ribbon Day, is held on 25 November each year and is one of the largest worldwide campaigns organised by men to end violence against women. Women are more likely to experience violence at the hands of someone they know than someone they do not know, and that is why family and domestic violence is a focus of commemorations. The family and domestic violence unit has taken a leading role this year and has worked closely with representatives from many organisations, including the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services, Communicare and Amnesty International WA.

White Ribbon Day recognises that most men do not use violence, but a minority of men abuse women and girls, and it is up to the majority to take a stand. It baffles me that we live in a modern society, yet there are still unacceptable levels of family and domestic violence in homes and abuse against women and girls throughout our communities. As the Minister for Community Development, and as a man, I wanted to take a stand against this violence towards women, and that is why I agreed to be an ambassador for White Ribbon Day. Ambassadors are highly respected men in our communities who personally and publicly condemn violence against women. Western Australia has about 80 ambassadors covering a wide range of professions, including local musicians Eskimo Joe; the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and other ministers and members of this Parliament; academics; spiritual leaders; barristers; policemen; artists; magistrates; sportsmen; community and government workers; journalists and television presenters; businessmen; and leaders in our indigenous communities. I ask members to please take this opportunity today, and in the days to come, to wear a ribbon and spread the White Ribbon Day message to their constituents, friends, families and colleagues.