

**UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

Statement by Minister for the Environment

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah - Minister for the Environment) [2.24 pm]: I speak on behalf of the Minister for Child Protection; and Communities.

Mr Speaker, 25 November is White Ribbon Day, which marks the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. For countless women, home is not a refuge but a place of terror. Every day, in every country in the world, women and girls are verbally abused, beaten and sexually assaulted by husbands, fathers and other family members. The experience or threat of violence affects the lives of women everywhere, cutting across boundaries of wealth, race and culture. Figures provided by the White Ribbon Foundation show that almost half of all Australian women will be victims of physical or sexual abuse in their lifetime. Usually, the abuser is a member of the victim's family or someone who is known to her.

The Carpenter government is a great supporter of White Ribbon Day, which is to be marked on a local level with a breakfast at Perth Town Hall on 23 November. Ninety-three Western Australian men, including community leaders, sportsmen, politicians, academics and entertainers, have signed up to be White Ribbon Day ambassadors, with many planning to attend the breakfast. I particularly acknowledge the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and other parliamentary colleagues who have signed up as ambassadors. This year, Western Australian sports stars have backed the cause to help promote awareness of this important issue, particularly among men. A local media campaign was launched today by the Department for Communities involving West Coast Eagle David Wirrpanda and Fremantle Docker Troy Cook, with each wearing each other's jersey for a photo opportunity. The move was designed to show the players in an embarrassing state by wearing their opponent's uniform, but one that reflects how seriously they take the issue of domestic violence. It also forms part of the national media campaign called "Worth the Embarrassment", which depicts former Wallabies rugby player Brendan Cannon wearing an All Blacks jersey, and urging men not to tolerate violence against women.

The Carpenter government is committed to raising awareness of family and domestic violence, and we remain dedicated to providing resources and funding to deal with the issue. In the days leading up to 25 November, I encourage all members of Parliament to wear the white ribbons that I am about to distribute, and ask that they show their acknowledgement of and support for women faced with violence everywhere.

I acknowledge the organising and awareness-raising efforts of the Western Australian White Ribbon Day committee, made up of representatives from government, non-government and community organisations. I commend to the house the committee, the 93 Western Australian White Ribbon Day ambassadors, and the sports stars involved.