

Media Release

From Central Highlands Community Legal Centre Inc.

Local Legal Centre Awarded White Ribbon Workplace Accreditation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Central Highlands Community Legal Centre has become an official White Ribbon accredited workplace taking active steps in preventing and responding to violence against women.

Central Highlands Community Legal Centre is also pleased to be the first Community Legal Centre in the country to have White Ribbon Workplace Accreditation.

White Ribbon Australia is a national primary prevention organisation, with the international White Ribbon Campaign present in over 60 countries. The Programs are independently evaluated, piloted and referenced by a group of HR, human rights, domestic violence and education professionals, ensuring a quality product and best practice.

Over the past 18 months, CHCLC has demonstrated effective leadership, resource allocation, communication, HR policy development and training to create a safer and more respectful workplace. The evidence submitted to White Ribbon Australia indicates that CHCLC understands, prevents and responds to violence against women.

In a recent survey by VicHealth, 48% of respondents who had experienced domestic violence disclosed it to a manager or supervisor, and only 10% found their response helpful. Disclosure is often a traumatic experience for victims of violence, but it can also be a stressful time for supervisors receiving the disclosure. Training and support is critical. Having White Ribbon Workplace Accreditation provides a framework to prevent and respond to violence against women – giving tools to review, refine and implement policies, procedures, training and communication that is important to cultural change in promoting a zero tolerance to violence against women.

Central Highlands Community Legal Centre Inc. is a not-for-profit community organisation that provides free legal advice, casework and community legal education to people who live, work and study in the Grampians Region. To make an enquiry or appointment, please call 5331 5999. Further information about our service can be found at www.chclc.org.au.



**Proudly working with White Ribbon to create a safer workplace
Australia's campaign to stop violence against women**

Quotes Attributable to Lisa Buckland, CHCLC Coordinator

As an employer, CHCLC has an obligation to prevent and address violence against women and gender equality in our organisation and more importantly in the wider community, and keep our workplace safe and inclusive for women. This commitment has required a 'whole of organisation' approach with staff and volunteers across our organisation working together to build ownership and commitment to the program.

We are excited to be the first CLC (Community Legal Centre) to be White Ribbon Accredited. The CLC sector sees the effects of family violence daily. This accreditation is a way of acknowledging family violence occurs across all cultural, religious and socio-economic groups. Staff and volunteers are not immune from this national crisis.

This is a great opportunity to demonstrate a commitment to zero tolerance of violence against women. We are often involved in assisting women who are victims of family violence and this is a way of committing to our clients and staff that we can walk the talk.

FAST FACTS

- One in five women experience harassment within the workplace.
- 94% of employees agree employers should take a leadership role in educating their workplace about respectful relationships between men and women
- Most workplaces will employ current, former or potential perpetrators and victims of domestic violence at one time or another

END

The media can help stop violence against women:

The media plays a vital role in helping to raise awareness of violence against women. White Ribbon is inviting journalists to let the world know where they stand on this issue by wearing a white ribbon during the month of November, and particularly on and around White Ribbon Day, 25 November.

About White Ribbon:

The White Ribbon Campaign is the largest global male-led movement to stop violence against women. It engages and enables men and boys to lead this social change. In Australia, White Ribbon is an organisation that works to prevent violence by changing attitudes and behaviours. The prevention work is driven through social marketing, the Ambassador Program and initiatives with communities, schools, universities, sporting codes and workplaces. For more information, visit www.whiteribbon.org.au.

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