

ADMINISTRATOR'S MINUTE

7 August 2017

Minute Number: 27

Domestic Violence – White Ribbon Day Walk

At the Council Meeting on 5 December 2016, it was resolved:

“That in recognition of the high incidence of Domestic Violence and the ongoing need for support for victims and creating awareness of the issue, the Community Development and Services Advisory Committee review the current programs and support provided across Georges River, give consideration to a major awareness event for White Ribbon Day and make a recommendation to Council.”

As reported to Council at that time:

” Domestic violence is a major community issue which sadly affects many individuals and families, either directly or indirectly. Domestic violence is present across all cultures, socio-economic backgrounds and ages.

Statistics show that 1 in 3 women have experienced physical violence from the age of 15, and 1 in 5 women have experienced sexual violence.

Sadly, the St George Area Local Command attends to approximately 250 incidents involving domestic violence every month.

Council staff, the St George Domestic Violence Committee, Local Area Police and a number of community organisations have excellent programs and approaches to support victims and create awareness in the community. These organisations and individuals are to be congratulated on their ongoing commitment and achievements.

White Ribbon Day helps raise awareness among men and boys about the roles they can play to prevent violence against women.

A number of Council are now partnering with the NSW Police Force, schools and community organisations to conduct White Ribbon Walks on White Ribbon Day, to create awareness of domestic violence and to demonstrate the need to stand united against this serious issue.

Whether such a walk or some other event should be added to the current domestic violence events is appropriate for Georges River is a matter I would like Council’s Community Development and Services Advisory Committee to consider.”

I am pleased to report that planning is now underway to hold the first Georges River White Ribbon Walk at 1:00pm on Friday 24 November 2017.

The Walk has been endorsed by the Community Development and Services Advisory Committee and a representative group has held a number of meetings to make arrangements for the day.

That group includes representatives from:

- Kogarah Community Services – Ms Cathy Nisbet
- 3 Bridges – Ms Rosemary Bishop
- Georges River Citizen of the Year – Ms Natalie Esdaile-Watts
- Moving Forward - Ms Jan Christie
- NSW Police – Sgt. Alison Gunthrie
- Council Staff

The event has been supported by Assistant Commissioner Mark Walton (formerly Superintendent St George LAC) and has been scheduled not to clash with events to be held on that day at Randwick and Cronulla.

The event is proposed to commence and end at Jubilee Oval and invitations will go to schools, businesses, service clubs, registered clubs, sporting groups and others to participate. The afternoon will include entertainment and activities.

Council has provided \$30,000 in the 2017/18 budget to support the event. Sponsorship may also be sought.

Advisory Committee

A draft Terms of Reference for the formulation of a White Ribbon Walk Advisory Committee is attached for endorsement.

MOTION:

1. That the Council endorse the holding of a White Ribbon Day Walk to be held on 24 November 2017.
2. That the draft Terms of Reference for the White Ribbon Walk Advisory Committee be adopted.
3. That the participants in the planning group be thanked for their contribution.


John Rayner PSM
Administrator