



Speech by

## Hon. Margaret Keech

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

Hansard Thursday, 2 November 2006

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### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### White Ribbon Day

**Hon. MM KEECH** (Albert—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Fair Trading, Wine Industry Development and Women) (10.13 am): November 25 is a day of importance for all women and men around the world. It is White Ribbon Day—the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. White Ribbon Day is an opportunity for men around the world, working in partnership with women, to show their commitment to stopping violence against women.

On 25 November, thousands of men in Australia and across the globe will be wearing white ribbons to encourage all men to condemn violence against women. Violence against women is violence against the whole community and it is simply unacceptable in a civilised society such as Australia.

As the police minister has reminded us today, the incidence of domestic and family violence in Queensland is still too high. In 2004-05 police were called to over 41,000 domestic violence related incidences. Domestic violence does not just affect adults. A 2006 national survey of young people aged 11 to 24 years by Mission Australia found one of the main issues of concern to young people is family conflict.

The costs of violence against women are not just emotional and physical. A report by Access Economics in 2002-03 estimated the annual cost of domestic violence to the Australian economy was \$8.1 billion.

White Ribbon Day provides an opportunity for each of us to become involved and make a difference. The white ribbon is a symbol of a personal pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women. I thank members who have picked up their ribbons and put them on. I thank also the attendants. I hope that by the end of question time all members will be supporting White Ribbon Day by wearing their white ribbon in their lapel. The white ribbons members have before them have been supplied by the Office for Women, working with CEO Challenge. CEO Challenge is a partnership between the business sector and the community and its work is a reflection of the corporate sector's commitment to working with community organisations to eliminate domestic violence. Let us all join together in wearing the white ribbon in the hope that one day violence against women will be eliminated.