



Speech by

Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Hansard Wednesday, 25 November 2009

WHITE RIBBON DAY

Mr RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (11.44 am): White Ribbon Day is observed on 25 November each year and aims to send a strong message to the community about the unacceptability of violence against women. The White Ribbon campaign urges men to speak out against violence against women and pledges to end the violence by promoting a culture change. As a White Ribbon ambassador, I am calling on the people of the Morayfield state electorate and Queenslanders generally to get behind the campaign and wear a white ribbon today and on 25 November every year. The small gesture of wearing a white ribbon on 25 November sends a powerful message to men in the community that our community does not accept violence against women.

Violence against women is not okay. It has never been okay, and it never will be okay. By wearing a white ribbon, we show our support for the White Ribbon message. I also encourage men from around Australia to take the White Ribbon oath. By swearing this oath, Australian men demonstrate their personal and collective support for the campaign. I want to take this opportunity to place my oath on the parliamentary record—

I swear:

Never to commit violence against women

Never to excuse violence against women

Never to remain silent about violence against women.

This is my oath.

I want to encourage all Australian men to swear an oath to end violence against women and send a strong message to our entire community that violence against women is entirely unacceptable.