

White Ribbon Australia 2023 Advocacy



White Ribbon Australia is a part of a global social movement working to end men's violence against women. We believe that prevention is better than cure and we want all Australian men to be part of a generation working together to stop men's violence against women. This reality of being unsafe in Australia and men's violence towards women is at epidemic proportions.

Our focus is connecting Australian men and boys to women's safety, equipping them with the resources to challenge the drivers of men's violence against women and stand up and speak out against a culture where most Australian men remain silent about their role in stopping men's violence against women.

White Ribbon Australia is a strong advocate at all levels of government for policy, funding and legislative changes which prioritise prevention programs to address the drivers of men's violence against women and promote a more expansive model of masculinity.

Our advocacy will

- Prioritise the value of primary prevention and the role Australian boys and men play to intervene in and advocate for an end to men's violence against women
- To transform the men of Australian from passive observers into activists and owners of women's safety
- At scale, create awareness around the solutions to end men's violence against women

Our advocacy aims to

- Build power at the base to ensure that Australian men and boys are connected to the issue of women's safety
- Support systematic changes that result in a reduction and eventually the end of all forms of men's violence and abuse toward women
- Be the primary voice on all forms of men's violence and abuse towards women and how to prevent it
- Help all Australians understand the issue of men's violence and abuse towards women and their children
- Build the necessary systems and structures across Australia to stop men's violence against women

Our advocacy and primary prevention initiatives attempt to make men view violence against women as a man's problem to address, not their problem to accept.

Our Asks



Engaging men and boys to prevent men's violence against women



Moving Australia towards a more comprehensive and positive concept of masculinity



Workplaces are safe and equitable places for all employees



Criminalisation of coercive control



Engaging men and boys to prevent men's violence against women

- A specific national primary prevention action plan that encourages Australian boys and men to be activated on the issue of ending men's violence against women.
- A review of the national curriculum to include support for young men to transition to a more expansive model of masculinity.
- The Office for Youth, National Youth Engagement framework to specifically focus on domestic violence and abuse.
- White Ribbon Australia Community Action Group model to be embedded in every postcode across Australia.
- To have the White Ribbon Australia Barber Shop program operational in every state and territory and to have 50% of all barbers across Australia engaged in the program.



Moving Australia towards a more comprehensive and positive concept of masculinity

- A national education and awareness-raising campaign to promote healthier concepts of masculinity that is place-based and co-designed with boys and men
- Fund multiple settings where Australian men can actively advocate for women's safety, challenging ideas that condone violence against women, and activating good role models.
- A national fatherhood plan that builds on the Australian Father-inclusive practise guidelines to help men activate strengths based parenting.
- Australian males aged 18–50 get appropriate help to avoid any technology-facilitated abuse.





Workplaces are safe and equitable places for all employees

- Amend Workplace Gender Equality Agency reporting obligations to require relevant organisations to report on the steps they have taken to meet their positive duty, the number of sexual harassment and discrimination claims made, the number of claims resolved, and whether the organisation uses non-disclosure agreements.
- All Federal, State and Territory Governments and Local Governments are independently assessed against their requirements against Positive Duty as part of the White Ribbon Australia workplace accreditation program.
- To register a small business in Australia you must comply with minimum psychological safety requirements which asks all businesses to have a workplace prevention of sexual harassment, violence and abuse plan in place.



Criminalisation of coercive control

- To establish an Australia-wide definition of coercive control as an offence for all family relationships.
- Training and ongoing professional development for the response sector to recognise and address coercive control.
- A national education campaign targeting men aged 16–40 to understand what coercive control is and how to prevent it.