

Media Release



Samaritans

Compassion Integrity Justice

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For immediate release

Samaritans brings leaders together to stand up, speak out and act against domestic violence

In partnership with community leaders, Samaritans is taking active steps to prevent the cycle of violence against women by hosting a Cheese for Change event this March 26th.

The event will bring together leaders from the community to pledge their help to end men's violence against women and to take a stand against all forms of domestic and family violence.

"On average, one woman is killed every week in Australia as a result of intimate partner violence. Enough is enough. Samaritans hope that by bringing together key leaders from the community, we can make an impact by starting positive conversations to address violence," CEO of Samaritans and White Ribbon Ambassador, Brad Webb, said.

"We want people to know that violence against women is everyone's issue, and it is unacceptable. We are holding our Cheese for Change event in Cessnock to stand up and speak out, to prevent the cycle of abuse in our community. We will not remain silent," Mr Webb said.

Samaritans will be joined by community members including local MP, Joel Fitzgibbon.

"I'm committed to addressing the cycle of violence and ensuring that we as a community are taking active steps to help those escaping violence, as well as educating people so that they too can take a stand against family and domestic violence.

"Everyone in the community has a role to play in the prevention of family violence – this is everyone's business," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

Samaritans were the first accredited White Ribbon organisation in the Hunter region and with over 800 staff, a high representation of females and a number of services supporting women and children fleeing domestic violence, Samaritans is motivated to make a difference in the space.

"Statistics show that one in three women been a victim of physical and/or sexual violence perpetrated by someone known to them. These numbers are far too high. We must empower all people to take a stand against disrespectful behaviour and all acts of violence.

"Samaritans is proud of the commitment and persistence of its staff to ensure women's safety is a man's issue too. Funds raised from the event will go towards supporting White Ribbon's national primary prevention campaign, which aims to stop violence before it occurs, through education initiatives in schools, workplaces and the broader community," Mr Webb said.

If you or someone you know is experiencing violence, call 1800 RESPECT on 1800 737 732 for advice or support. This free service providing confidential advice is open 24/7. In an emergency, call the police on 000. All incidents of violence should be reported to the police.

-ENDS-

Media Contact: Media are invited to contact Samaritans Communication Team on 4960 7100 or 0438 475 772 to organise a photo or interview opportunity.