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Friday 25 May 2012

## COUNCIL TIES UP WHITE RIBBON MOU

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Artin Etmekdjian, and the CEO of the White Ribbon Foundation (Australia) Libby Davies, will co-sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as a formal recognition of the existing positive relationship between Council and the White Ribbon Foundation.

The community is invited to witness the formal signing of the MOU which affirms the Council's and community's non-tolerance of violence against women. The timing of this event recognises that raising awareness about violence and its prevention is not something that happens on just one day of the year (i.e. on White Ribbon Day 25 November). Rather, that it is an ongoing concern that Council and the Community are committed to, as symbolised in the MOU

The Mayor said the Memorandum of Understanding marks an important step in a long term collaborative partnership.

"We at City of Ryde and members of our community have been on an active journey to help bring about changes in attitude and behaviour. This MOU is another important step in that journey.

"We recognise that eliminating violence against women is a goal that requires ongoing effort and commitment from all of us, both as individuals and collectively."

Paul Sironen, White Ribbon Ambassador and ex Balmain, NSW and Australian Rugby League player, who will be guest speaker at the signing, said: "Violence of any type, but especially violence against women, should never be tolerated in our community.

"We all have a part to play in eliminating violence and the Council, by taking a leading role, is a step in the right direction".

White Ribbon is Australia's only male-led campaign to stop men's violence against women.

The signing will take place on: Tuesday 5 June 2012 2.00pm–3.00pm West Ryde Community Hall 3-5 Anthony Road, West Ryde Members of the public are welcome to attend.

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