

**MM45/24 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - Mayor,  
Councillor Trenton Brown****File Number: MYR/07/10/20 - BP24/977**

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The 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2024, marks the conclusion of a global event known as “16 days of activism” which is held annually to raise awareness and encourage change to help end violence against women. This important campaign pledges to build communities where women are safe and equal.

I am proud to advise that the City of Ryde has reaffirmed its commitment to ending violence against women this November as part of its accreditation as a White Ribbon Australia workplace.

City of Ryde hosted a series of impactful events to bring people together to reflect and act in 2024.

Highlights included a breakfast BBQ at the City’s Operations Centre featuring Darryl Gardiner, a powerful speaker sharing his journey of overcoming cycles of violence. An afternoon tea at the Pope Street Office, which gave Ryde Police Liaison Officers a platform to discuss their work in addressing domestic violence. An employee lunch was also held at the City of Ryde head office which provided another opportunity for employees to hear Mr Gardiner’s inspiring story.

A number of fellow Councillors, the CEO, members of City of Ryde staff joined me on the *Make A Stand* community walk at Macquarie University precinct, standing in solidarity against domestic, family, and sexual violence. An event was then held in Elouera Reserve where acknowledgement was given to the 84 people who have lost their lives in domestic violence incidents in the past 12 months.

Ending violence against women requires action, awareness, and a united community effort. The City of Ryde is committed to being part of the solution by fostering respect, providing support and working tirelessly to create a future where everyone feels safe and valued.

To amplify the message, Council launched an awareness campaign with translated posters, brochures, and digital content across Council buildings, social media, and digital screens.

City of Ryde employees also participated in a toy drive - donating toys and books for children from families escaping domestic violence - ensuring a brighter Christmas for those in need.

**MM45/24 (continued)**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- (a) That Council note the need for ongoing work to support victims of domestic and family violence.
- (b) That Council support work which educates the community about domestic and family violence and how to seek assistance.
- (c) That a minute's silence be observed to pay respect to the 84 people who have lost their lives to domestic and family violence in the last 12 months.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

Report Prepared By:

**Councillor Trenton Brown**  
**Mayor**