

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS EVENTS held in 2018



With the support of a grant from the Adelaide White Ribbon Breakfast, WAB conducted 4 public events in regional SA in October/November, 2018 for the awareness of Domestic Violence. Our theme for the year was 'Being a Good Neighbour' and this was a great opportunity to learn how to be a good neighbour for those in need when confronted by domestic violence, which is becoming more exposed in our society and the statistics on deaths due to domestic violence seem to be increasing. Offering these events to the public was also 'being a good neighbour'.

Ivan Phillips of Port Lincoln was a keynote speaker, revealing his family experience of domestic violence. He is an advocate for awareness and prevention of domestic violence, he was the 2016 SA White Ribbon Ambassador of the year and he has won an Impact Top 25 award for the most influential people in the social sector of Australia. Ivan is a self-confessed Iron Butt Motorcycle junky who has ridden around Australia 3 times and crossed the Nullarbor 13 times on his trusty steed. He is the founder of the "Riding Free of DV" charity for DV sufferers on Eyre Peninsula.

Kimba – On 20th October, 2018, at the Kimba Hotel WAB co-conducted 2 events as part of the Health & Wellness Weekend. At the men's breakfast at 8:30am, there were 35 men and then again at the dinner at 6:30pm there were the maximum number of 130 people who heard Ivan speak.

Clare – On 30th October, 2018 at the Clare Town Hall at 7-10pm, WAB (Yvonne Correll – Central Coordinator) conducted an event including Ivan, a DV survivor, SAPOL and Uniting Country SA. Supper was provided by WAB members from the WAB On-Line branch and Cunliffe branch. 30 attended.

Keith – On 31st October, 2018 at the Keith Institute at 7:30-10:30pm, WAB (Nadene Jericho – Mallee Coordinator) conducted an event including Ivan, a DV survivor, SAPOL and there was Health Service information. Supper was provided by the Coonalpyn and Wirrega branches. 23 attended.

Naracoorte – On 1st November, 2018 at the Senior Citizen's Club at 7:30-10:30pm, WAB (Narelle Scott – Limestone Coast Coordinator) conducted an event with Ivan, a DV Survivor, SAPOL, SA Ambulance, SA Health (Women's Wellness Nurses). Supper was provided by the Senior Citizen's Club as well as some WAB members from Padthaway, Lochaber & Stewarts Range branches. White ribbons were donated by Beth Gale and handed out to each participant. 52 attended.

Comments – written on evaluation forms immediately after the events or by word of mouth

Well done – keep up the good work – thank you so much – thank you WAB – well run event – thank you for convening this – well run event – thank you, Ivan – very much appreciated – thank you for sharing personal stories

Excellent presentations – great work helping to spread the word & make a difference – Ivan was very inspiring – very informative – great experience – excellent speakers – a valuable & worthwhile session – very valuable evening – a worthwhile evening in all with great speakers – brought awareness and strong message – enlightening information - emotionally confronting but very informative & educational – eye opener for all ages – the room was so spellbound you could hear a pin drop

Re **Ivan Phillips** – an impressive speaker fitted in well with the weekend programme - brought awareness to a local community - congratulations to WAB for applying for the grant and bringing Ivan here -amazing – well worth hearing at a local level – admired his courage and all his handling of the fundraising (Kimba) - quite amazing, strong message, motivational - brought awareness, admired his courage and information to all ages - well delivered story which portrayed the situation and feeling - touched all age groups - fantastic story...emotional.

More education needed – need for education at school level on respect...regardless of gender – we must keep educating people – more education early.

More men need to be targeted to these things –sorry there weren't more people here including men

Would like more specific guidelines on how to help people we suspect of being in a DV situation

Addressing the open secret of DV needs a 26 week program including safe places for victims

Wonderful that there is so much more awareness (survivors of DV) – it can only help with more areas of health and an increase of awareness of SAAS and SAPOL's involvement.

Dissemination of Information to the Broader Community

At the end of one of the events, Ivan was asked to be a speaker at an annual event in 2019 of one of the groups represented. Many service and church groups attended the events and we have heard that they have taken back information to these groups in order to spread the word of awareness of DV, of Ivan's story and of information they received.

Information left by SAPOL – SA's Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme poster and fliers

From Centacare – Limestone Coast Domestic Violence Service –fliers

From Uniting Country SA - pamphlets on support services

LCFVAG (Limestone Coast Family Violence Action Group) supported by Stand Like Stone cards with phone numbers of Local Services and Emergency Services, called Limestone Coast Family Safety Card.

WAB News 227, issued Nov 2018 has an article about the 4 events. This is a publication that goes to the SA and Federal Libraries.

Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme

Here are some comments made by Hon. Vickie Chapman MP, a WAB On-Line member, about this scheme – "I especially want to draw attention to the scheme allowing women to check their partner's criminal history. It commenced on October 2nd this year and within the first 4 weeks had received 28 applications. Interest has come from both metropolitan (70%) and regional areas (30%) and isn't just about the disclosure itself but also putting people in touch with the services they need, and perhaps would never have come across if not for the scheme."

Hon. Vickie Chapman MP also commented about another new initiative, '**Ask for Angela**' and she said recently, "The last initiative I want to mention is the 'Ask for Angela' campaign we launched in November. 'Ask for Angela' is a safety initiative rolled out in pubs and other venues which gives patrons a discreet way they can ask for help if they have concerns for their safety. Under the program, if someone feels unsafe they can approach staff and ask to 'speak to Angela'. This flags to staff that this person needs assistance. Staff can then take a range of actions including escorting the person to a safe area, calling the police, arranging for a taxi, or alerting security. This initiative originated in the UK and has been rolled out in NSW and is about creating a safer environment for a fun night out.

I am pleased to read that domestic violence forums are occurring in regional areas around the state. While I note some of your disappointment at the number of attendees I encourage you to focus on the positive, namely that people are attending, conversations are being had, and the awareness of the urgency and importance of addressing this issue is growing. As Attorney General and a member of the Liberal government, I can assure you that we stand with the community, united in our view, that domestic violence is unacceptable in any form."

Appreciation for the White Ribbon grant

WAB would like to thank the Adelaide White Ribbon Breakfast for the grant and their confidence that WAB would be able to spread awareness of Domestic Violence to the regional areas. The Management Team and in fact, all of WAB members and those who attended, have learnt so much about Domestic Violence as a result of this exercise, which we would not have had if we hadn't received the grant.

The White Ribbon organisation is doing a splendid job in trying to prevent victims of Domestic Violence.