



Trish Doyle MP

Member for Blue Mountains



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New South Wales Parliament Legislative Assembly

National Domestic Violence Remembrance Day

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I thank the member for Maitland, the shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, for bringing this matter of public importance to the attention of the House. I also thank the member for North Shore for her contribution to this debate.

It is important for members in this place to speak not only on National Domestic Violence Remembrance Day but at any time of the year about the work different people and different organisations are doing to try and prevent domestic violence. I thank Jan Christie and the members of Moving Forward who each year, in a respectful and gentle way, invite people passing Parliament House, as well as people who work here, to stand with them for a moment of quiet reflection and to lay roses along the fence line of Parliament House—red roses for women, white roses for children and yellow roses for men. It is an acknowledgement that domestic and family violence happens everywhere, in many ways, and that all sorts of people are impacted by it.

Moving Forward is a specialist case management service for women and children who are experiencing, escaping or have left domestic and family violence. Yesterday at the remembrance event members of the organisation were talking to me about the desperate need for more money. They are struggling to do the job they have set themselves because the demand for their counselling services and support far outweighs their ability to meet that demand. This remembrance event is designed to facilitate community expressions of grief but it is also a reminder that with we need to talk about the issue of education and specialist domestic and family violence support services.

Also this week the Women's Electoral Lobby hosted an event in the Fountain Court foyer of Parliament housed called Keep the Lights on in Women's Refuges. It included a performance by the SOS Women's Choir. The stories that accompanied the songs were quite harrowing.

I thank West Connect Domestic Violence Services. They provide specialist programs, services, refuges and crisis accommodation for women and children escaping domestic violence, and are based throughout my electorate.

I also acknowledge the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme and the many local community organisations and services in my electorate and throughout this State for their work in the area of preventing domestic violence.