



Category - Recent local advocacy project that focuses on the prevention of violence against women and girls.

1. Name of Club: **BUNBURY** (Our club has a separate Advocacy Committee, established in 2015.)
2. Name of Project: **White Ribbon Day – Advocating in two local shopping centres**

The focus of this project is to raise community awareness in two local communities of the impact of Domestic Violence on women and girls.

Each year, on or around November 25th, Bunbury Zontians take to the shopping centres in Bunbury and Bridgetown to increase the awareness of and advocate for the prevention of violence against women and girls. Members distribute white ribbons, free of charge and offer information about help that is available.

Two club members who live in Bridgetown, (one a charter member, 87 years of age!) have been actively advocating in their community for two years now. They have been astounded at the responses they have had from people in their area who have been affected by domestic violence and they have raised the profile of Zonta in their town.

At our displays in 2016, 'Zonta Says NO' posters and our club banner were used in the White Ribbon Day displays, increasing the visual impact of Zonta, and highlighting the plight of women suffering Domestic Violence. Zontians wore orange 'Zonta says NO' vests and really stood out as they distributed white ribbons. Even though we were not fundraising, \$571 was donated, including one \$50 note! These funds were given to the South West Women's Refuge.

For the past two years, our ribbon makers have included 15-17 year old students, disengaged from school and attending the Jobs South West Training general education course. Women living at the Ocean Star Nursing Home also made ribbons for us. By involving these community groups in this service project, they learnt of the significance of White Ribbon Day and gained an awareness of domestic violence issues. The project also gave the elderly women in the nursing home a reason to meet socially to do something different and make a positive contribution to their community.

Many ribbon recipients spoke to members about their experiences of domestic violence, either as family or friends of people who had been victims. Positive feedback about the need to talk openly about Domestic Violence occurred and that 'it should not be a stigma to seek help'. Both men and women demonstrated a heightened awareness of the need for prevention of Domestic Violence. In particular, a number of brothers or fathers of abused women stated the need for this to be a focus of public policy. Pamphlets that were distributed gave recipients contact numbers, services available and information on where help could be accessed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'K. Robbins'.

Kimberley Robbins - Club President

24th July 2017

