

Fair Work Ombudsman a White Ribbon Workplace

25 November 2013

The Fair Work Ombudsman has become a White Ribbon Workplace after establishing policies for operating at best practice when it comes to preventing and responding to violence against women.

In the lead up to White Ribbon Day today, the workplace regulator undertook a 12-month accreditation process with White Ribbon and successfully met standards that demonstrate zero tolerance to violence against women inside and outside the workplace.

White Ribbon is the world's largest male-led movement to stop violence against women. White Ribbon seeks to change the attitudes and behaviours that lead to and perpetuate violence against women through prevention initiatives and an annual campaign, beginning on White Ribbon Day.

The Fair Work Ombudsman is one of the first Australian employers to become a White Ribbon Workplace in a new national pilot, having successfully implemented policies and practices to help drive positive change when it comes to attitudes that lead to violence towards women.

The agency's culture, policies and procedures, communication and training strategies and leadership on the issue of domestic violence were extensively assessed as part of the accreditation program and found to be best practice.

Fair Work Ombudsman Group Manager, Mark Scully, said all employers can play a role in helping to prevent domestic violence and assisting employees who are affected by it.

"Violence against women is completely unacceptable but sadly it still occurs. Employers can make a difference by promoting a culture of zero tolerance in their workplaces and by responding to incidents and offering support to employees affected by domestic violence," said Mr Scully, who is a White Ribbon Ambassador.

"Finding this support at work might be exactly what an employee affected by domestic violence needs and will help to retain employees who might otherwise leave the workplace because of their private circumstances.

"Violence and threats of violence can have a devastating effect on individuals and often also impacts on an employee's health, safety and ability to do their work, whether it's being experienced in a person's private or professional life.

"I am a strong advocate of White Ribbon Day and proud of the Fair Work Ombudsman's accreditation as a White Ribbon Workplace. I encourage all employers to consider supporting the White Ribbon cause."

Employers and employees seeking information and advice about workplace laws should visit www.fairwork.gov.au or call the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94. A free interpreter service is available on 13 14 50.

For information about White Ribbon, visit www.whiteribbon.org.au (http://www.whiteribbon.org.au) .

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Contact us

Fair Work Online: www.fairwork.gov.au

Fair Work Infoline: 13 13 94

Need language help?

Contact the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 13 14 50

Hearing & speech assistance

Call through the National Relay Service (NRS):

For TTY: 13 36 77. Ask for the Fair Work Infoline 13 13 94

Speak & Listen: 1300 555 727. Ask for the Fair Work Infoline 13 13 94

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