



## Senator Michaelia Cash

Senator for Western Australia  
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration  
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for the Status of Women

### Media Release

#### Government Failing Australian Women on Domestic Violence

23 November 2012

White Ribbon Day, or the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, is marked on November 25 each year, as part of the White Ribbon campaign's efforts to engage Australian men to help prevent violence against women.

But while more than 57,000 men across the nation have taken an oath to never remain silent on violence against women, the Australian Government is failing on its commitment to take serious steps to reduce violence domestic and family violence, Coalition Spokeswoman on the Status of Women Senator Michaelia Cash said.

'The Government has failed in relation to the implementation of its own National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children,' Senator Cash said. 'The first three-yearly Implementation Plan was due in July 2011, but was not released until September this year.[1] What does that lag say about the seriousness with which the Government is treating this issue?'

'In the same vein, the Government has not yet established the promised National Centre for Excellence for data collection despite this being a core commitment made as part of the Equal Futures Partnership with the United States and several other nations.' [2]

'Instead in July this year Minister Collins announced that Ministers at the Select Council on Women's Issues had: 'agreed to work towards the development of a National Centre of Excellence to enhance the evidence base and improve on the ground responses to violence against women and their children.' [3]

The Australian Human Rights Commission was also critical of the draft National Disability Insurance Scheme which it said contained no specific measures addressed at violence against women and girls with disability, despite the fact that protection of people with a disability from violence is a key policy area of the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020.

‘We have not yet seen the result of any of these promised actions, and it is just not good enough,’ Senator Cash said. ‘Australian women and children deserve more than a disinterested and half-hearted approach to a problem that is a silent epidemic and is destroying not just the social fabric of families but affects Australian workplaces and businesses too.’

‘I commend the work being done by the White Ribbon Foundation and the more than 57,000 men who have sworn the oath to never remain silent about domestic violence.

‘These grassroots measures being taken in the community to mobilise men to take action and change attitudes in the community, and to never stay silent on violence against women will bear results, but without a genuine commitment from the Government there cannot be a comprehensive strategy,’ Senator Cash said. ‘This short-changes Australian woman and future generations of young Australians.’

‘I also urge all those who are able to purchase a White Ribbon and show their support on White Ribbon Day for ending violence against women wherever it occurs.’

‘I also acknowledge the work done by community and social workers across the country who aid victims of domestic violence and their children, and thank them for the work they do.’

‘Keeping women and their families safe from violence is central to ensuring their security and prosperity and is a key policy priority for the Coalition. We fully support the White Ribbon campaign.’

[1] <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/women/programs-services/reducing-violence/the-national-plan-to-reduce-violence-against-women-and-their-children>

[1] <http://www.pm.gov.au/press-office/equal-futures-partnership-launch>

[1] <http://juliecollins.fahcsia.gov.au/node/212>