



Tanya Plibersek MP



Minister for Housing
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MEMBERSHIP OF NATIONAL COUNCIL TO REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN ANNOUNCED

The Australian Government today announced the members of its National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children.

The Council will be chaired by one of the founders of the Australian White Ribbon Day campaign and international human rights advocate, Libby Lloyd AM, with support from deputy-chair, Heather Nancarrow, Director of the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research.

The nine other members of the Council are Lisa Wilkinson, Pauline Woodbridge, Vanessa Swan, Dorinda Cox, Andrew O'Keefe, Melanie Heenan, Associate Professor Moira Carmody, Maria Dimopoulos and Rachel Kayrooz.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics reports that around one in three Australian women experience physical violence and almost one in five experience sexual violence over their lifetime.

No person should fear for their safety at home, at work, or on the street.

The purpose of the Council is to assist with the development and implementation the Government's *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children*, which aims to reduce domestic violence and sexual assault.

Council members have been drawn from diverse professional and personal backgrounds, which will enable them to provide expert advice and direction to assist the Government to lead the Plan.

Upcoming priorities include:

- Developing respectful relationship resources for Australian high school students to educate young Australians, particularly boys, about the impact of domestic violence and sexual assault;
- \$1 million over four years to support White Ribbon Day education activities in rural and regional communities to promote culture-change that will reduce violence against women; and
- Toughening and harmonising state and territory domestic violence and sexual assault laws.

The Council will start work by undertaking a public consultation with a broad range of stakeholders including members of the public, victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, and criminal justice sector professionals.

The Council will provide expert advice and direction to the Government to ensure evidence, best practice and innovation underpin the development of the Plan.

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Monday May 26, 2008**

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