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## Media Release

### **Come and help eliminate violence against women**

One in three women experience physical or sexual violence in their life time and Warringah Councillor Vincent De Luca, who has been appointed an Ambassador for White Ribbon Day is inviting the community to join him on 25 November 2008 to mark the United Nations Day for the elimination of violence against women.

“For too long Australia has been silent on this heinous crime. 57% of women in Australia involved in the ‘International Violence Against Women Survey’ reported experiencing at least one incident of physical or sexual violence during their life and one in 20 women were the victims of violence in 2006. These events must not be ignored and we as a community need to take a proactive approach in bringing these shameful acts to an end” Cr De Luca stated.

“The impact of violence against women on families and societies is enormous. Domestic and family violence is a primary cause of homelessness. More than one in five people seeking emergency accommodation are escaping domestic violence, with this ratio rising to nearly one third for Indigenous people. Of great concern is the fact that domestic violence is the highest contribution to the death and disability of women. Those groups at greatest risk of physical or sexual violence are Young women aged between 18-24, Aboriginal women, Women with a disability and Pregnant women”.

On 25 November 2008 the White Ribbon Day Campaign will commence with over 400 eminent men around Australia publicly championing the cause and leading the way in raising awareness and helping to change attitudes on this issue. The campaign enables men to become agents of change by speaking out about the use of violence against women and children, and the attitudes and social norms that tolerate violence.

Spearheading the campaign is Channel 7’s Andrew O’Keefe. Councillor De Luca is joined as an Ambassador by Aboriginal rights campaigner Mick Mundine, Director of Public Prosecutions Nicholas Cowdery AM QC, Comedian Wil Anderson, Rugby League stars Hazem el Masri and Benji Marshall and boxing champion Kostya Tzuyu, Bernie Farrelly, Bryce Gaudry, Jim Boyle, Nathan Bell, and Dean Summers. Ambassadors are taking up the cudgel as leaders for change.

On 25 November 2008 an afternoon tea will be held at the Collaroy Beach Surf Rock Hotel to launch White Ribbon Day. Cost is \$20pp and funds raised will go to the White Ribbon Foundation. For more information telephone Cr De Luca on 0414 990 551 or email [vdeluca@hn.ozemail.com.au](mailto:vdeluca@hn.ozemail.com.au).