

MEDIA RELEASE



The Hon **David Hawker** MP
Federal Member for Wannon



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MALE PARLIAMENTARIANS UNITE AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & CHILDREN

The men of the Australian Parliament are uniting in a campaign to raise awareness of and to minimise gender-based violence within Australia and within the Asia-Pacific region.

“Australia still has unusually high rates of gender-based violence compared to other developed nations and I hope we can improve this in coming years,” Federal Member for Wannon, David Hawker, said.

“In our Asia-Pacific region, evidence is coming in through the Millennium Development Goals process that our region is failing to meet targets on improving the lives of women and girls, more than any other region in the world.

“Unless Australia leads on addressing this, we are going to continue to experience direct negative impacts on our national interest,” he said

“I am therefore participating in a campaign driven by male Australian MP’s from all sides of politics to raise awareness about these issues and to start taking action both locally and nationally.

“I am supporting White Ribbon Day on November 25th and I encourage everyone in the community to visit www.whiteribbonday.org.au to learn more about how they too can participate.

“I am also committed to a closer working relationship with local services who work in this field. Services such as EMMA HOUSE provide important and valuable local services to women and girls in need and I strongly endorse and support this service and others like it.”

“Finally, I will be uniting with my parliamentary colleagues to review policy and to discuss strategy at regional and national levels regarding ways we can further eliminate gender-based violence and I look forward to helping to contribute to this process,” Mr Hawker said.

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