

2022 Federal Election Position Paper

White Ribbon Australia & Communicare

White Ribbon Australia and Communicare are calling on men to make women's safety a priority when voting in the upcoming federal election.

On average, one woman is murdered every week by her current or former male partner. In 2022 alone, 14 women have been killed in a domestic violence incident.[1] To end this, we need a federal government that will take action against gender inequality and violence against women.

We need strong, swift action to address gendered violence in our workplaces, schools, sports clubs and communities. The federal government has the power to fund services, change laws and deliver on the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and their Children. That is why this election matters.

With the federal election on May 21st we have the opportunity to have our voices heard and vote for women's safety. You can help make that happen.

Before voting, we are calling on men – and the broader community – to research and contact their local candidates to find out what they will do to promote gender equality and end violence against women if elected.

We want the White Ribbon Australia community to grasp the issue, ask questions that create awareness around the subject of women's safety, and ensure that primary prevention is fully known and disseminated, whether it's on social media, by email, phone call, or at a candidates' forum. The following are some contemplation questions:

- What will they do prevent domestic, family and sexual violence?
- What action will they take to stop workplace sexual harassment?
- What funding have they committed to domestic, family and sexual violence frontline and specialist services?

White Ribbon Australia has created materials to help this effort, including as scripts, social media tiles, and tools to raise awareness and promote primary prevention discourse. The more people who participate in encouraging their local candidates to prioritise women's safety, the stronger our message grows, and the more we reflect on our own ideas, attitudes, and behaviours, the more we continue to construct a society free of all types of men's violence and abuse against women.

White Ribbon Australia and Communicare have also been calling on all major and minor political parties to invest in:

- Community-led primary prevention that engages men and boys.
- Building a primary prevention workforce.
- Promoting cultural change in workplaces that empowers women.
- Establishing residential men's behaviour change programs in every state and territory.
- Funding domestic, family, and sexual violence frontline and specialist services.

We want the government to make ending men's violence against women a national priority and invest significant funding into services that work towards this.