

The right to be safe

No woman or child should be subjected to domestic violence. Domestic violence is unacceptable. RCSA member Deborah Wilson MRCSA writes for the *RCSA Journal* about a subject which is critically important for everyone.



Deborah Wilson MRCSA

Having held many leadership roles over a thirty-year career within the recruitment and careers sector, which continues to have a high percentage of females, I feel very strongly in 2014 about the role leaders play in supporting a safe workplace.

We are often blinded by the thought it wouldn't happen in our workplace – I also thought this. How wrong we are! As well as my own experiences as a leader, the statistics will tell us that domestic violence is more than likely in your workplace. One in three women in Australia will suffer domestic violence in their lifetime. Of these, two-thirds are employed.

Because people affected by or who use violence are the same people employed in our workplaces; they are our co-workers and employees, our customers and suppliers, and our friends, neighbours and family. Therefore we need an intervention.

Until November 2014 (starting last May) I am working with Australia's CEO Challenge (ACEOC) www.ceochallengeaustralia.org to promote their great work including:

- Selling their Workplace Domestic Violence Prevention Program to organisations. This program integrates management, human resources, workplace health and safety, staff and community engagement to ensure businesses are responsive to staff, customers and the community in which they operate.

ACEOC will:

1. Educate people in the workplace to recognise and deal with domestic violence.
 2. Develop HR policies for your organisation and thereby support staff affected by domestic violence.
 3. Create partnerships between businesses and local domestic violence prevention services.
- Hosting a Cocktail Party on Wednesday 22 October 2014 at The Brisbane Club in Brisbane themed: "More than just a handbag" website: morethanjustahandbag.weebly.com.
 - Developing a series of DBDs/Videos for women in refuges in support of their return to the workplace.
 - Seeking donations via: give.everydayhero.com/au/ms-wilsondeb

If you are interested in supporting my campaign or finding out more about in a Workplace Domestic Violence Prevention Program, please call me 0403 779 746 or email: d.wilson@trevor-roberts.com.au.

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