



## **MEDIA RELEASE: OCHRE RIBBON WEEK FEB 12-19**

### **Against Aboriginal domestic and family violence**

**11/02/2022**

Ochre Ribbon week has been recognised since 2015 following another unnecessary death of an Aboriginal woman, in a rural WA town, at the hands of her violent partner. On February 12 begins a week dedicated to raising awareness of domestic and family violence against Aboriginal women and children.

The NT has the highest rate of domestic, family and sexual violence in Australia. Shamefully there were 5571 domestic violence-related assaults in the NT, reported to Police, between December 2020 and November 2021.

The team at NAAFLS knows only too well the unacceptable burden of violence carried by women and children living in Aboriginal communities, and each year we are committed to raising awareness through our Ochre Ribbon Week Breakfast.

#### **North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service (NAAFLS)**

NAAFLS provides legal advice, legal representation and support to Aboriginal people experiencing domestic, family, and sexual violence. Our service delivery model is community based, and our lawyers work with the bush court system.

No other legal group in the Top End understands better the desperate need for change in violence towards women and children in Aboriginal communities.

#### **Ochre Ribbon Week**

Ochre Ribbon Week is a time to show solidarity with Aboriginal women and children and drive action to stop the unacceptable levels of violence they live with every day. It's an opportunity to bring people together to talk about the problem and come up with solutions.

Join us on February 18 to hear from special guest speakers MLA Yingiya Guyula as well as Gawura Wanambi, Joy Bulkanhawuy and Ben Grimes from ARDS Aboriginal Corporation talk about their views on domestic violence and how we can work together as a community to help.

#### **Extent of the problem**

In 2022 the NT started the second action plan of the [Northern Territories Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework 2018-2028](#).



The framework paints a bleak picture of a serious and continuing problem in the NT.

Gender inequality has been identified as the number one driver of domestic, family, and sexual violence and demonstrated through:

- Condoning violence against women
- Men's control of decision making
- Limits on women's independence
- Rigid gender roles and identities
- Male peer relationships that emphasise aggression and disrespect towards women

In the NT:

- Our women and children are 3x higher to be victims of domestic and family violence. Last year there were 5571 reports to police, and we know many acts are unreported, so the true figure is even more shocking. This is higher than any other jurisdiction in Australia.
- Aboriginal people are 18x higher than non-Aboriginal people to be victims of domestic and family violence.

### **Justice for all**

At NAAFLS we protect women and children through legal representation, legal education and support through the legal process. Our vision is for safe and empowered communities where everyone understands their rights and has access to justice. Ochre Ribbon Week is one way we show solidarity, come and join us.

### **Link to our event**

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1379999689088985/?ref=newsfeed>

<https://www.linkedin.com/events/ochreribbonweekbreakfast6894161571896020992/about/>

For interview about our Ochre Ribbon Week Breakfast contact NAAFLS CEO David Alexander on [david.alexander@naafls.com.au](mailto:david.alexander@naafls.com.au) or 0401118278



[admin@naafls.com.au](mailto:admin@naafls.com.au)



(08) 89275942



[www.naafls.com.au](http://www.naafls.com.au)