



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Domestic Homicides double in WA since last year!

On Friday, 23 November the WCDFVS (WA) invites all community members to attend the **28<sup>th</sup> Annual Silent Domestic Violence Memorial march**. The event continues to be held each year to remember and honour all those who have lost their lives to domestic homicide. This year **28 people** have been killed as result of domestic and family violence, compared to **12 people** last year. The often fatal consequences cannot be ignored and the Women's Council believe much more can be done to prevent this scourge within our society. The breakdown of the deaths this year are:

- Women (13), Men (6), Children and Young People (9). Of all the deaths of women and children, a male perpetrator was responsible; (except one woman was killed by her niece).
- Of the (6) men killed the perpetrators where:
- A brother (1) son (2), Women Partner (3);

Women's Council, CEO Angela Hartwig said,

*"One death is one too many, so the killing of 28 Western Australians, at the hands of loved ones, is indeed shocking and unacceptable. "In the last five years there have been **89 domestic homicides in WA.**"*

*"This year, among the people killed were a number of children and young people aged from 2 to 15 years of age through to a woman aged 83."*

Ms Hartwig said much more can be done by all levels of the community. State and Federal governments, businesses, and first responders. Ensuring that all **Women's Refuges/DFV Specialist Services** are funded to be able to provide a suite of services such as crisis and medium term accommodation, outreach, safe at home and counselling.

For working women, it is essential that **paid domestic violence leave** is available so that women and their children can attend to their immediate safety needs whilst still being supported to remain employed".

*"When a family member is killed, not only does the immediate family become traumatised, entire communities are affected," Ms Hartwig said. We need a **media campaign** that reaches the **everyday person**, one that **challenges the often normalized attitudes and beliefs** that domestic and family violence is somehow acceptable and one that provides options for both **victims and perpetrators** to seek help."*

**Media spokesperson:** Angela Hartwig, WCDFVS, Phone # 0409 207 264

## FACTS ABOUT THE EVENT:

Date:	Friday, 23 November, 2018
Place:	<b>Supreme Court Gardens (cnr Barrack &amp; Riverside Dr)</b>
10.30am	Free Morning Tea and Information Stalls
11.00am	Rally with Speakers (Police Commissioner, Chris Dawson, Minister for the Prevention of Family & Domestic Violence, Hon. Simone McGurk MLA and Survivor, Amber)
12:00noon	Silent march through the streets CBD.

For further information about the event please contact Carolyn on 9420 7264 or [carolyn@womenscouncil.com.au](mailto:carolyn@womenscouncil.com.au)

## FACTS ABOUT DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE:

**60 women** have been killed in **Australia in 2018**, by a current or former partner. Why is this not a national emergency?

1 in 3 women have experienced **physical violence** since the age of 15;

1 in 4 women have experienced **emotional/psychological abuse**;

1 in 5 women have experienced **sexualized violence**;

Intimate Partner Violence is the **greatest health risk** of women aged 25-44;

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women are **32 times more** likely to be **hospitalized** as a result of family violence-related assault than non-Indigenous Women, and **10 times** more likely to **die** from an assault;

More than **two-thirds (68%) of Mothers who had children** in their care when they experienced violence from their previous partner said their children had seen or heard the violence.

Domestic and Family Violence against women is the single largest driver of **homelessness for women**, a common factor in **child protection notification** and results in a **police call-out** on average **every two minutes** across the country.

While **men are more likely** to experience violence by **other men in public places**, women are more likely to experience violence from men they know, often in the home.

The overwhelming majority of acts of domestic violence and sexual assault are perpetrated by **men against women**, and this violence is likely to have more severe impacts on female than male victims.