



Hume City Council has a white ribbon taskforce that is spreading the message that domestic violence is not tolerated. Picture: KYLIE ELSE N01H0807

## Taskforce fights domestic violence

DOMESTIC violence is under the spotlight with a Hume Council taskforce leading the way on zero tolerance.

Hume Council established the White Ribbon Action Team last year in response to the high incidence of family violence in Hume and has grown to include 19 council staff. It has now developed a White Ribbon Action Team Strategy, which was adopted at a council meeting last week.

Hume Mayor Helen Patsikatheodorou said violence against women was a significant issue in the community. "In Aust-

ralia, one in three women will be assaulted or abused in their lifetime - those women are our mothers, our girlfriends, our wives, our daughters, our colleagues and our friends," she said.

Hume has the second highest incidence of family violence in Victoria accounting for more than 10 per cent of the total reported cases across the state.

"That's a shocking statistic and that's why the council continues to take the lead in tackling violence against women and working towards a safe community for all in Hume," Cr Patsikatheodorou said.

The strategy will work with current services in the prevention of violence against women.

Hume city infrastructure director and white ribbon action team chair Steve Crawley said the campaign was driven mainly by men, for men, who are a critical part of the solution to ending violence against women. Cr Geoff Porter said the council needed to take a stand. "It's something that should never happen," he said.

Cr Adem Atmaca said he felt ashamed that Hume had the second highest number of domestic violence incidents.

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