

South Adelaide Football Club White Ribbon Round....July 12th 2014

On Saturday, as the Soroptimist International representative on the Adelaide White Ribbon Breakfast committee, I attended the White Ribbon Round held by South Adelaide Football Club, at Noarlunga Oval. South Adelaide is the leading club in the SANFL acknowledging the issue of Violence against Women in the community.

Members of the Adelaide White Ribbon Breakfast Committee distributed ribbons to members of the crowd. Most people wore their ribbon without hesitation. Prior to the commencement of the game, players from both South Adelaide and the Adelaide FC teams stood behind the huge banner and said the WR oath.



In 2013 South Adelaide initiated this event, largely due to the persistence of local WR ambassador Tod Stokes. Many SI Adelaide members will know Tod from selling white ribbons in the Central Market. The other participating club in 2013 was Glenelg. Tod is a committed grass roots local community worker for this cause. During the week, Tod organised for two survivors of DV to speak to South players.

Prior to every game, there is a Chairman's lunch, organised by the home team. On Saturday, both the Chairman Andrew Luckhurst-Smith and CEO Evan Arnold said how proud the club was to be the leader in the SANFL in recognising the White Ribbon round. Deputy Director Andrew McIntyre, underscored the club's commitment later, by saying that this round is very important to the club. A couple of South Adelaide players had spoken on local media during the week. As the visiting team was Adelaide Football Club, its CEO and WR Ambassador Steven Trigg, was guest speaker for the lunch. He said violence against women is abhorrent and said he's proud to be a WR Ambassador.

Telstra were one of the game sponsors and had organised Crows Captain Nathan Van Berlo and popular Crows player Rory Sloane to visit for the day. They were proudly wearing their White Ribbons and signing autographs.



I'd like to offer my personal congratulations to the South Adelaide Football Club for their leadership in the community on the issue of DV. A football club has a wide diversity of men across several generations and presents the ideal place to spread the right messages about respectful relationships with women. Club leaders understand that ordinary community men must stand up on this issue, if we are to make progress.

On the ABC's World Today program on Friday July 11th, the ABC's Gavin Coote reported on changing attitudes to Domestic Violence being made in rugby league teams in remote parts of New South Wales. Local police say that the initiative is working. Click on this link to hear the story in full. Congratulations to that local league and its leaders, for their stance.

<http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2014/s4044038.htm>

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Soroptimist International of Adelaide Inc.13/7/14

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