

Diocese marks start of 16 Days of Activism with prayer and a focus on what works

Adelaide Anglicans held a liturgy in the Cathedral and attended the Adelaide White Ribbon Breakfast as the global campaign against gender-based violence began.

By Marianne Gillard

Sensitive content notice: *This article contains content about domestic and family violence. If this raises any issues for you, the following support options are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: MensLine Australia (1300 78 99 78) and 1800RESPECT (1800 737 732).* You can access Diocesan support page here.

The Diocese of Adelaide marked the start of the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence this week, with a service of prayer at St Peterâ??s Cathedral followed by a strong presence at the cityâ??s annual White Ribbon Breakfast.



The 16 Days campaign runs each year from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day. This yearâ??s global theme, set by UN Women, is â??Speak out. Believe survivors. Demand justice.â?•

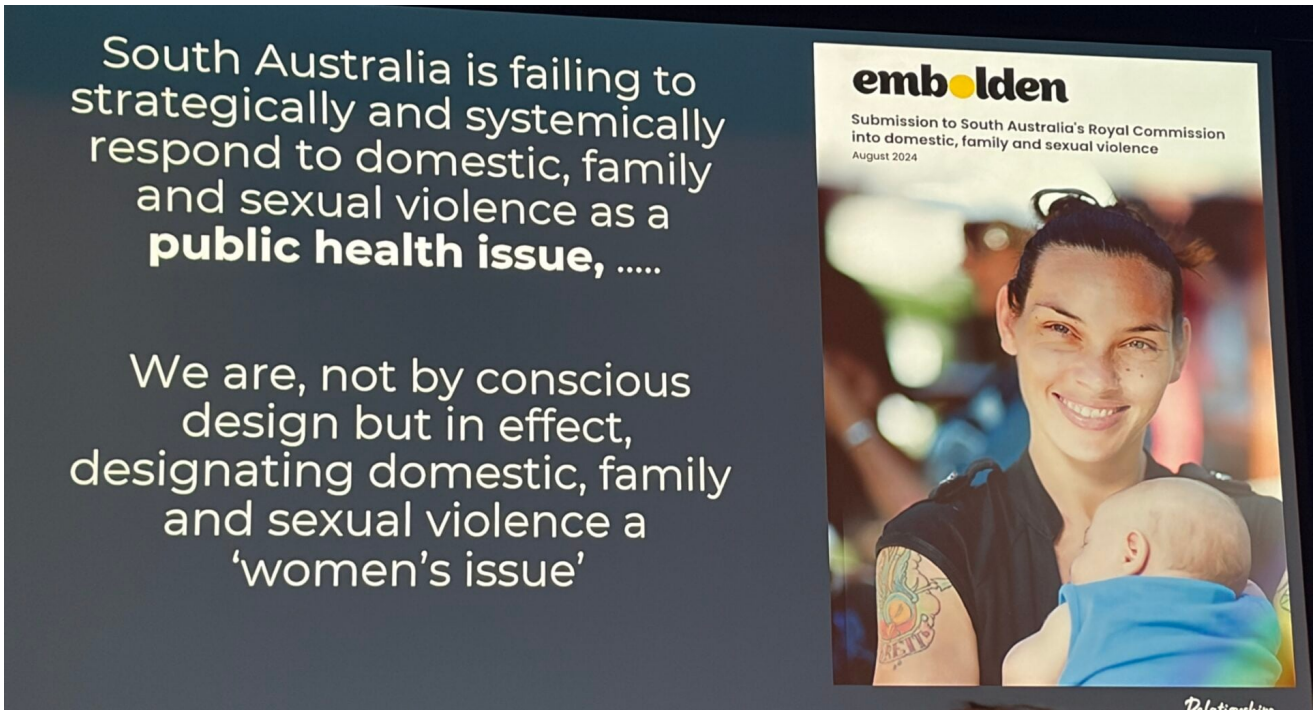
On Wednesday 25 November, people gathered at St Peterâ??s Cathedral for the Mothersâ?? Union liturgy â??Together for Dignity and Safety 2026â?•. The service honoured victim-survivors of gender-based violence and offered prayer for those who work alongside them.



Early the next morning, members of the Adelaide Anglicans Domestic & Family Violence Working Group, along with clergy and Diocesan staff, attended the â??Wake Up to Changeâ?• Adelaide White Ribbon Breakfast at the Adelaide Convention Centre, above.

This yearâ??s theme was â??What Works: Evidence-based strategies for engaging men in ending family violenceâ?•. The keynote speaker was David Tully, Practice Manager of Family Violence Services at Relationships Australia (SA), who has more than 25 yearsâ?? experience working with men who use violence and in trauma recovery and behaviour change programs.

Each year the breakfast brings together leaders, advocates and community members for a morning of conversation and shared commitment to ending violence against women and children. Funds raised support White Ribbon Australia and South Australian programs that prevent violence and support those affected.



The Diocese takes part in forums like this, and works with local, state and national government initiatives, as part of its response to the Anglican Church of Australiaâ??s 10 Commitments for Preventing and Responding to Domestic and Family Violence.

Those commitments were given fresh emphasis this week by the Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, Bishop Mark Short. In a statement released on 24 November to coincide with the 16 Days, he noted that Church-commissioned research has found intimate partner violence is at least as common in churches as in the wider community.

â??Violent behaviours have no place in Godâ??s design for relationships,â?• Bishop Short said. He urged church leaders to learn the 10 Commitments, share them with parish councils and make use of the resources at tencommitments.org.au.

The 16 Days of Activism continue until 10 December.

Support is available 24/7: 1800RESPECT (1800 737 732) and MensLine Australia (1300 78 99 78). In an emergency, call 000.

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