

## **White Ribbon Australia's response to the Annual Alcohol Poll 2017:**

White Ribbon Australia's CEO, Libby Davies has today welcomed the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education's (FARE) report into alcohol attitudes and their links to domestic violence.

"The report places a statistical analysis on what we've known and experienced anecdotally - that there is a significant link between alcohol and domestic violence.

"Research demonstrates that the relationship between alcohol and violence is the result of a complex interaction of a number of variables e.g. physical effects, individual characteristics, the drinking environment and societal attitudes and values.

"The FARE research reports that nearly every Australian (92%) accepts the connection between alcohol and family and domestic violence. The research explains that 35% of Australian's have been affected by alcohol related violence, and 48% of these have experienced alcohol-related violence in the last year.

"These statistics are abysmal. Alcohol is not an excuse for violence. There is no excuse. Having a *stand on the sidelines approach* isn't appropriate and doesn't address the root cause of the issue. We need to go where the problem is and work in partnership with industry to ensure that the sale and consumption of alcohol is accompanied with strong awareness and impact messages about the relationship of domestic violence and alcohol. Alcohol is not the underlying driver of violence against women, but it can be a significant contributor. Men always have a choice.

"We need to do more to educate and stand up and speak out in our community, in particular our men of all ages need to role model zero tolerance to physical, emotional, psychological abuse towards women.

"White Ribbon would welcome renewed leadership from governments on this issue to ensure that public awareness and policy recognises the undeniable linkages between alcohol and domestic violence on all fronts."

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**FARE media release:** <http://fare.org.au/2017/04/harmed-drunk-and-dangerous-aussies-link-alcohol-to-family-and-domestic-violence/>