

MEDIA RELEASE

11 Queenslanders have died as a result of domestic violence in the last 12 months

On Wednesday 1st May a Candle Lighting Vigil was held at Kangaroo Points Cliff in Brisbane to remember those who have lost their lives as a result of domestic and family violence.

Now in its 14th year, the vigil marked the first day of May - Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month.

DVConnect Board Member Shaan Ross-Smith says “Sadly, since the last Candle Lighting Vigil exactly one year ago, 11 Queenslanders have lost their lives because of domestic and family violence. The vigil helps us remember the loved ones lost and also helps to spread the message about how to get help.”

The vigil started with the master of ceremonies Kay McGrath revealing the names and ages of the 11 Queenslanders. The Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk then addressed the 300 strong audience, followed by outgoing Police Commissioner Ian Stewart and Paralympian Karni Liddel.

Personal experiences of the devastating impact of domestic violence were shared by Jonty Bush and Natalie Hinton. Jonty lost her sister, followed by her Father as a result of domestic violence in Rockhampton. Natalie Hinton is the Mother of Gold Coaster Tara Brown who was run off the road and beaten to death by her ex-partner.

Local Brisbane singer songwriter Hannaka performed, as did Songlines Choir and the Queensland Police Bag Piper. The Brisbane City Council lit the Story Bridge and the Victoria Bridge purple in remembrance.

The Candle Lighting Vigil is a Queensland Domestic Violence Service Network event. It was jointly hosted by DVConnect, Brisbane Domestic Violence Service, Australia’s CEO Challenge, Red Rose Foundation, Immigrant Women’s Support Service, Queensland Police and QSuper.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, help is available. DVConnect is Queensland’s only free telephone service offering specialist counsellors who can help develop a safety plan. This includes emergency transport and accommodation. Visit www.DVConnect.org or call:

Womensline 1800 811 811, anytime, 24 hours, 7 days.

Mensline 1800 600 636, from 9am until midnight, 7 days.

Sexual Assault Helpline 1800 010 120, from 7.30am until 11.30pm, 7 days.

ENDS.

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