

Breaking the Silence Schools Program

The *Breaking the Silence* Schools Program is an award-winning professional learning program for principals and senior teachers. It supports participants to embed models of respectful relationships in school culture and classroom activities.

What the Program Provides

- Professional learning suitable for both **primary and secondary schools**
- A **scaffold** to embed violence prevention and respectful relationships based on your individual school and community needs, resources, and context
 - Supports, builds on, and integrates with existing school policies, practices, programs and initiatives
- Best practice principles, tools and resources to embed respectful relationships across the **whole of school** and strengthen a **culture of respect**
- Alignment with and support for implementation of school, state and national policies, including:
 - School planning
 - State/territory curriculum
 - General capabilities under the **Australian Curriculum**
- Networking and partnership building with local schools, families, and community services
- Access to the **Online Hub**, including an Online Library of **best practice** materials for curriculum, policy, community partnerships, and school culture
- Access to a **network** of schools across Australia through the Online Forum



"I want to represent myself as a role model and show the people around me, my peers, friends, family, everyone in the community, how women should be treated and make them feel safe."

White Ribbon School student



Benefits

Breaking the Silence has been independently evaluated and is an evidence-based program with proven capacity to result in long-term positive cultural change. Benefits include:

- Practical knowledge, tools, and strategies to embed respectful relationships
- Increased understanding of men's violence against women and principals of gender equality
- Strengthened community partnerships
- Safer, more respectful, and inclusive schools
- Calmer classrooms and more productive schools
- Reduction in violence supportive attitudes and positive changes in behaviour

Upon completion, schools will join a cohort of White Ribbon Schools across Australia and receive ongoing support. Becoming a White Ribbon School is an overt symbol of a school's commitment to building safer, more respectful and productive schools and communities.

It's given young men the language to talk about respect and respectful relationships, and it's given teachers the language as well, in particular to talk to young boys in particular about how they communicate with the young girls at the school.

Marianne Siokos, Principal, Woollooware High School

Structure



Up to **two participants** (principal and senior teacher) per school undertake the following professional learning:

1. **eLearning** (approximately 1 hour)
Getting started: understanding the issue, embedding violence prevention and respectful relationships in schools
2. **Workshop 1** (4 hours face-to-face)
Creating a White Ribbon School: recapping the issue, best practice principles, practical tools, and planning for my school community
3. **Workshop 2** (4 hours face-to-face)
Embedding *Breaking the Silence*: reflection and sharing of learnings, exploring future directions and planning for the future

[The workshops] were really valuable to hear what other schools had done and the principals who came back and told the story about their examples of previous years – it was a great way for me to learn what the possibilities were.

Primary school principal

From where we began I feel really justified in having brought White Ribbon to Sylvania Heights Public School... it's so important because this is essential to the future of our children... We know that teaching respectful relationships is essential for our boys to be fine young men, for our girls to be accepted and proud of who they are, and it's an essential, important message around student wellbeing that we foster at our school.

Merrilyn Jenkins, Principal, Sylvania Heights Public School

Expression of Interest for 2016

To express your school's interest in the *Breaking the Silence* Schools Program, please visit <http://www.whiteribbon.org.au/bts-expression-of-interest>. For queries, please contact the White Ribbon Schools Team: 02 9045 8430, schools@whiteribbon.org.au.