



YWCA
CANBERRA

MEDIA RELEASE

YWCA CANBERRA PUTS THE FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR CHANGE FOR 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

27 November 2015: A special film and discussion event will be held on Wednesday 2 December in Canberra as part of the global 16 Days of Activism To End Gender-Based Violence campaign.

YWCA Canberra will screen the local premiere of Australian feature documentary, *Call Me Dad*, a story about men who have perpetrated, or are at risk of perpetrating, family violence.

YWCA Canberra Executive Director Frances Crimmins said the event provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on the highly complex process of men's behaviour change programs, and the deep-rooted gender inequality which perpetuates the issue.

"Public discourse on Australia's family violence crisis needs to go beyond quick fixes. We need to talk about how we tackle this issue to create lasting change – it will involve confronting attitudes and behaviours that become ingrained at a young age.

"I am really pleased that such a wonderful group of Canberrans will join us for the panel discussion – each with a unique perspective and understanding of family violence in the ACT," she said.

The panel is made up of:

- Alisa Draskovic, founder, This is Not a Wife Beater Campaign
- Greg Aldridge, Executive Director, Canberra Men's Centre
- Station Sergeant Joanne Cameron, Officer in Charge, Family Violence Coordination, ACT Policing
- Kylie Travers, CEO, author, speaker and anti-domestic violence and homelessness advocate

Canberra Men's Centre has been providing services for men for over 15 years – including men who perpetrate or who have been victims of violence. Greg Aldridge said effective support and services leads to better outcomes for men, the women in their lives and their children.

“It’s great to see a local film focussed on men’s behavioural change programs. This is an uncomfortable issue for many, but the documentary provides a powerful tool for us to elevate this conversation, and ultimately create meaningful change,” Mr Aldridge said.

Event: Call Me Dad Screening & Panel Discussion

When: 6pm – 8:30pm, Wednesday 2 December

Where: Level 3, YWCA House, 71 Northbourne Avenue, Civic

Tickets to the event are available online at ywca-canberra.org.au

A shorter version of the documentary will screen nationally on ABC1 on 26 November.

YWCA Canberra will hold a series of events during the #16 Days campaign, culminating in a [Day of Action](#) on 11 December at Parliament House.

- ENDS -

Frances Crimmins and Greg Aldridge are available for interview.

Media contact: Karan Gabriel 0429 210 881

About the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence: The 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence is a global campaign from 25 November - 10 December. It is to raise awareness about violence against women and its impact on a women’s physical, psychological, social and spiritual wellbeing.

The 16 Days begin on International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (also White Ribbon Day) and end on International Human Rights Day. These two dates highlight that violence against women is a human rights abuse.

During the 16 Days, activists around the world will use the campaign to further raise awareness about the prevalence and devastating impact of gender violence, challenge policy and practice that allow women to be targeted for acts of violence, and demand that violence against women be recognised as an abuse of human rights.

About YWCA Canberra: YWCA Canberra is a feminist, not-for-profit community organisation that has been providing community services and representing women’s issues in the Canberra community since its establishment in 1929. YWCA Canberra employs more than 300 staff across the ACT, and delivers 30 quality programs in children’s services, community development, housing, youth services, women’s leadership, advocacy, and training. Represented in 122 countries, the YWCA has a global reach of 25 million women and girls. As part of this international movement, YWCA Canberra works for a world where reconciliation, justice, peace, health, human dignity, freedom and care for the environment are promoted and sustained through women’s leadership. For more information visit:

www.ywca-canberra.org.au

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