

MEDIA RELEASE

Subject: **Murray Bridge Says 'NO' to Domestic Violence**

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A striking artwork has brought community groups and organisations together to raise the profile of an issue important to our community.

Place of Courage, Ripples Across SA is a state-wide initiative led by [Spirit of Woman](#), which has been brought to Murray Bridge by the Murray Bridge Collaboration on Violence Against Women and Children (MBCVAWC), with the support of The Rural City of Murray Bridge and a community grant.

Following 18 months of hard work, a commemorative artwork by [CHEB Art](#) will be installed along with a bench near the end of Murray Cods Drive on the riverfront at Sturt Reserve. The official launch will take place at 11am on Friday 24 November 2023, at Murray Cods Drive, Sturt Reserve and will include a Ngarrindjeri Smoking Ceremony, live music, guest speakers and free community BBQ.

Mayor Wayne Thorley says the unveiling of this commemorative artwork stands as a symbol of our unwavering commitment to combat domestic violence.

"The *Place of Courage* initiative looks to change the conversation around domestic violence through community education and cultural awareness", he said.

MBCVAWC Chairperson Linda Martin said the artwork will provide a place to grieve, find solace, heal, connect and educate.

"We are determined to frame domestic and family violence as a whole-of-community issue and spread the message that we all have a role to play in education and prevention", she said.

Following the launch there will be a series of events in Murray Bridge to acknowledge the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence campaign. This annual, international campaign begins on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

Highlights of the program include:

- *Project Creative Courage* art exhibition that asks what a loving community looks like, with artworks by students from Murray Bridge High School and Unity College, will be on display at Murray Bridge Regional Gallery from 24

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November 2023 to 28 January 2024 with a celebration event on Sunday 10 December between 12pm and 1pm.

- The Haven, an outreach of the women's information service based at the Murray Bridge Community Centre, have been busy creating a quilt stitched together with more than 40 butterflies. Five community workshops occurred with 30 participants, including members of the Owl Drive craft group, Murray Bridge Uniting Church and the Murray Bridge Soroptimists International, each creating a butterfly patch. The quilt will be on display at the *Place of Courage* launch event along with a butterfly-themed artwork.
- Members of Bridge Arts showed their support for the cause by creating a butterfly-themed collage on canvas for display at the launch event.
- *The Clothesline Project* continues strong with many new t-shirts completed this year to be displayed in the windows of businesses in the Murray Bridge CBD.

For more information, visit

https://place_of_courage_murray_bridge.eventbrite.com.au or contact Kristen Manson on k.manson@murraybridge.sa.gov.au

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