

Muriel (Moo) D'Ath

1. What is your understanding of what constitutes violence against women:

- a. In the community?
- b. In workplaces such as local government?

In both scenarios; bullying, harassment, threatening communications, sexual harassment, meanancing behaviour.

2. If you are elected as a Councillor on 4 September, what would you perceive to be your role in mitigating the incidence of violence against women:

- a. In the community?
- b. In workplaces such as local government?
Education. Educated the perpetrators that it's not OK. Empower the survivors and their network to speak up and out.

3. Are there instances in your life or career where you have become aware of, and taken action to mitigate the incidence of violence against women? If so, could you please describe these instances?

In February 2021 I was indecently assaulted while volunteering for a bushfire recovery group. I became agoraphobic and traumatised as this incident brought up pass issues. One in my childhood and a rape at the age of 26. I didn't leave my house for months.

I pressed charges and the matter was drawn out for nearly 8 months by the accused. Finaling he was found guilty and a pathetic sentence recieved.

I have spoken honestly and openly about this to anyone who asks. We need to remove the shame from the victims and place it directly in the hands of the perpetrators.

The removal of shame isn't only attached to sexual assault. The shame of being verbally abused, belittled or harassed need to be place back on the perpetrators. It is their misgivings, not ours, that need to be examined and criticised.

4. How could the Shoalhaven City Council Strategic Plan better address the issue of violence against women in the Shoalhaven local government area?

I'm not entirely sure yet but you can count on me to be part of every meeting, every communication, every step of any plan to make the community and the workplace safer for all.

Thanks for your time and interest in the election.

Moo