

Questions for Candidates for Shoalhaven City Council Elections re Violence Against Women

Name: Takesa Frank

1. What is your understanding of what constitutes violence against women:
 - a. In the community?

Within the community, violence against women can occur in the workplace, street, school, on a night out, even at home. Violence against women can be a range of things including emotional violence, manipulation, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual assault family violence, verbal abuse and more. Violence against women occurs in many relationships including marriage, co-workers, peers, boyfriends, friends, strangers etc. violence against women in the community affects women at all ages from cat-calling young women on the streets, to emotional abuse between co-workers at work.
 - b. In workplaces such as local government?

Violence against women occurs way to often in professional workplaces including local government. Over the past 5 years, the female councillors and mayor on Shoalhaven City Council have received misogynistic bullying from male councillors. I think this has been a contributing factor to 4 out of the 6 current female councillors not running for council again in this election. Been a councillor, means you are a leader of the community, and community members look up to you. When community members see this kind of behaviour from our leaders it could result them thinking this is normal, women start to believe that violence against them is a normal thing and men start to think that they can treat women with disrespect.
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?
 - Providing the community with Education and resources about violence against women and what you can do if you or someone you know is experiencing violence against them
 - Supporting organisations and groups which are helping women escape from violence for example safe waters in Ulladulla
 - Overall, the community has a role to create a safe public place for all including women.
 - b. In workplaces such as local government?
 - Providing the workplaces in the Shoalhaven with Education and resources about violence against women and what you

can do if you or someone you know is experiencing violence against them within the workplace

- In local government if behaviour like we have viewed in the past is occurring, people should be held accountable for it. As well as this a motion should pass through the council saying the Shoalhaven City Council does not accept violence against women or misogynistic bullying to show the community that these actions are not acceptable in council or any workforce in the Shoalhaven.

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?

Been a young candidate and haven't been in a career yet so have not become aware of violence against women in that sense. However, been young I have become very aware of violence against women especially on a night out. 1 in 6 women have been sexual assaulted since the age of 15. Violence against women especially sexual violence is something that occurs way to often to young people on a night out. On a night out, it is something young women have to think about and as well as looking after your safety you also have to look out for your friend's safety.

4. How could the Shoalhaven City Council Strategic Plan better address the issue of violence against women in the Shoalhaven local government area?
The Shoalhaven City Council Strategic Plan is a good broad plan. However, it has a long way to go in regard to violence against women. I believe it could be more specific and include more details about what the council is going to do and by when. For example, the framework includes women's safety program, but doesn't explain how, who and when they are going to be delivered.