



MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 19/11/2019**

## **NORTHERN RIVERS STANDS TOGETHER AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

The Dirty Laundry Project is being rolled out once again across the Northern Rivers to take a stand against domestic violence. Social Futures has partnered with Summerland Credit Union to make the message clear: domestic and family violence has no place in our communities.

Dirty Laundry Day is an annual event that will be held from 25 November through 10 December this year.

T-shirts with messages painted by individuals who have experienced violence will be hung throughout the Northern Rivers region in 10 Summerland Credit Union branches as well as local cafes, bringing voice to an issue that is often not talked about.

The displays will coincide with the United Nations' 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. This aligns our community actions with global efforts to reduce incidence and initiate conversation about family violence.

Social Futures CEO Tony Davies says, "Dirty Laundry Day gives women, young people and also men an opportunity to share their stories. When we take a moment out of our daily routine, at the credit union, or while grabbing a cup of coffee, to learn about what someone else has gone through, we are letting them know that their experience matters."

"Domestic violence is a serious, ongoing issue. Often individuals living with family violence feel extremely isolated. Dirty Laundry Day shows that we as a community are behind them. We are here to help," Mr Davies said.

As people around the world come together to create a culture that does not tolerate violence, local businesses are eager to do their part.

In 2019, Summerland Credit Union joined Social Futures in becoming a White Ribbon accredited workplace recognised for leading social change to prevent and respond to violence in our communities.

Summerland Credit Union CEO, John Williams, says, "Ethical banking and respectful relationships are the cornerstones of our business and we take steps to prevent the financial abuse of vulnerable customers, including elder abuse, domestic violence and disability bias. It is so important that people's stories are heard to inspire everyone to take a stand to end the cycle of abuse in our communities."

Visit one of the [Summerland Credit Union branches](#) to see the powerful displays of t-shirts with messages by people in our own communities who want their voices to be heard.



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You can also view the t-shirts, along with posters about where to get help, in several Lismore cafés. T-shirts and posters will be on display at the following locations: Dragonfly Café, Carrington Street Lismore and The Garden Plate, Magellan Street Lismore.

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1. Dirty Laundry Day campaign materials including photos and logos are available on request.
2. Social Futures is a social justice organisation based in Northern NSW. We have more than 40 years' experience as a regional leader, advocating for the communities we work in; working in partnership with others; and providing services that promote inclusion, fairness and social equality. Our work encompasses homelessness and housing supports, youth and family services, programs that promote genuine participation for people with disability, community sector support, professional development, and systemic advocacy.
3. In April 2017 Social Futures was the first non-governmental organisation in the Northern Rivers to be accredited as a White Ribbon workplace. In September 2019 Summerland Credit Union became the first financial institution to be accredited in our region.

Although White Ribbon has been recently disbanded in Australia, both Social Futures and Summerland Credit Union remain committed to doing all that we can to assist people affected by domestic and family violence, and to advocate for and on behalf of the communities where we work to put an end to all forms of violence and abuse.

More information about White Ribbon is available at <https://www.whiteribbon.org.au/stop-violence-against-women/get-workplace-involved/workplace-accreditation/>