

Dame calls for an end to violence

BRYCE URGES FOCUS ON ISSUE

Sarah Orr

AUSTRALIA'S first female governor-general has called for a continued sharp focus on the elimination of violence against women.

Launching Zonta International's 16 Orange Ladies campaign at Riverbend Books in Bulimba last week, Dame Quentin Bryce said ending domestic violence must remain high on the public agenda.

She said everybody had a responsibility to create cultural change.

"We mustn't back off," Dame Quentin said. "We mustn't let it slide off the agenda."

She recalled the 1970s when the first women's refuges were opened and proponents were optimistic about ending the scourge.

Dame Quentin conceded the issue was confronting but it was imperative to maintain the conversation.

"It is insidious and genuinely serious but we've got to take action," she said, adding the State Government's commitment to implement all recommendations published in the *Not Now Not Ever* report in March was a positive step.

The State Government has also announced it will offer public servants who were victims of domestic violence 10 days of paid leave.

Likewise, Brisbane City Council would make the same offer to staff who suffered domestic violence.

Telstra, National Australia Bank and McDonald's also have the domestic violence leave provision in place.



Dame Quentin Bryce at the launch of Zonta International's 16 Orange Ladies campaign in Bulimba.

Pictures: PETER CRONIN



Bulimba MP Di Farmer and Virginia Evans.



Sandra Langford and Lyn Papa.



Beverley Farley and Gerwyn Lacaze.



Jean Giarola and Beulah Castan.



Lauren Gill and Vicki McLennan.