

This is a sample letter that was used for our walk in 2022

Dear Families

Unfortunately, Domestic Violence is a big problem in today's society and in our town, so it's important to raise awareness, educate and stop the cycle. Domestic Violence should not be a silent issue. Accepting this type of behaviour is never ok.

The Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond are organising a 'Ballina Steps Up Against Domestic and Family Violence Walk' on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of November. The walk commences at 12:30pm from the La Balsa Plaza carpark (next to the Ballina Swimming Pool).

Walk with us along River and Cherry Street to the Ballina Indoor Sports Centre (BISC). At the BISC there will be guest speakers to highlight the need for collective action to stop domestic and family violence, along with cultural dances and music performances.

Together let's stand up, speak out and prevent this behaviour from continuing in our community. This walk will raise the awareness of the domestic violence issues being faced by many families in our town. Together we can bring about change.

Students from (school name), and other local schools are participating in this peaceful walk. School students and staff will be walking together as a group. Parents, sporting groups, service organisations and community members are welcome to participate in the walk and will form a separate walking group to the students.

Students in Years 7-10 are strongly encouraged to participate in the walk and will need to gain parental permission. Students who wish not to participate will be supervised at school and alternate activities will be provided. Senior classes will continue as per normal timetable, however any senior students who wish to participate in the walk are able to. Participating students will have a short 10-minute break at 11:40am, before assembling in the Sports Hall at 11:50am, then walking down to Ballina Pool carpark to commence the walk. (school) staff will be supervising during the walk and at the BISC, before returning to school.

**The agenda for participating students is as follows:**

11:40am	Participating students leave class for a short 10-minute break in the playground.
11:50am	Assemble in the sports hall.
12:00pm	Walk to La Balsa Plaza Carpark.
12:30pm	Ballina Steps Up Against Domestic and Family Violence Walk begins.
1:00pm	Students seated in the BISC. Musical performances from students.
1:30pm	Guest speakers, cultural dances.
2:45pm	Wrap up, students to go back to (school name) for supervision and break time until 3:25pm

(School) staff are aware of the sensitivities and possible triggers surrounding Domestic and Family Violence. Classes will be completing associated lessons prior the walk to help students understand and engage in this important issue within our community. Where participation in these lessons may be a cause for concern, parents are encouraged to contact the school and inform respective teachers who can support as required.

Putting an end to abuse is everyone's responsibility. Let's break this devastating cycle of violence. This is a whole community issue. Become an advocate for change and prevention, walk with us.

Kind Regards,

(name)  
Organising Teacher