



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**28 October 2010**  
**For Immediate Release**

### **Reclaim the Night on 29 October 2010**

Family Planning Queensland's Cairns Sexual Assault Service is hosting *Reclaim the Night* at the Red Arrow Walking Track this Friday evening. Reclaim the Night is traditionally a night where women all over the world rally together to protest the ways in which violence against women impacts on our lives. This year, the Cairns Sexual Assault Service invites men to come along and tackle the Red Arrow alongside the women of Cairns.

The Red Arrow is a popular exercise venue in Cairns and unfortunately, like many of our public places, is also a place where sexual assaults occur.

Cairns Sexual Assault Coordinator Clare Oppy explains, "Women are typically told 'Be careful where you go, who you're with, what you wear, stay alert,' but it is not women who typically sexually assault others. Women and men -- we all -- ought to feel safe in public spaces. You shouldn't have to feel fear or concern that there is an underlying threat of sexual assault just because you happen to be walking along a city street after dark, or jogging along your favorite exercise track."

"One of the difficulties for women is that while the bulk of men would never consider sexually assaulting a woman, a woman who has a man walking behind her on the path at night, cannot know if you happen to be one of those men or not. The actions of some men impact how all men have to be viewed in terms of a woman's safety. Reclaim the Night is an opportunity for women and men of Cairns to walk together to highlight a belief in respectful relationships, to express condemnation of sexual violence against women, and to show the Cairns residents do indeed support having a safe community for all," says Detective Inspector John Hartwell, Crime Coordinator, Far North Region.

The Red Arrow Walking track is on Collins Avenue beside the Botanical Gardens. Starting time is 5.30pm.

For further information, please contact Clare Oppy, Coordinator of Cairns Sexual Assault Service on (07) 4031 3590.