



Speech by

Dr Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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BAYSIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INITIATIVE

Dr ROBINSON (Cleveland—LNP) (10.05 pm): It is with deep regret that I share with the House the news that the Bayside Domestic Violence Initiative—BDVI—will cease its domestic violence court support service at the Cleveland Magistrates Court from 30 June, only a few short weeks away. The decision has come about because of a lack of funding. It is certainly not the choice of the members who have worked extremely hard to establish the service and provide assistance to its clients.

BDVI began in 2003 with a small number of members who were committed to the goal of securing ongoing funding to provide a domestic and family violence service in the Redlands, Wynnum and Bayside island areas. The Cleveland court support began in early 2008 and 18 months of service has been possible due to the fundraising efforts of a dedicated group of local businesswomen. I wish to pay tribute and congratulate those wonderful women, the Females and Friends of the Finance Industry, also known as FFIFI. FFIFI luncheons have become a social event in Cleveland and, most importantly, have raised much-needed funds for the BDVI.

In just 18 months the funding provided by FFIFI's efforts have helped the BDVI to assist 238 applicants and respondents. The service has proved invaluable and its closure will be a great loss to the staff and applicants at the Cleveland domestic violence courts. Despite numerous submissions for recurrent funding for a responsive domestic violence service and application for court support funding, no commitment has been forthcoming despite the group's efforts and achievements in the field of domestic violence being widely acknowledged. Despite this recognition funds have not been made available to continue the court support, nor to initiate any other responsive services to people experiencing the trauma of domestic and family violence in our community.

Sadly, the BDVI committee has decided to put a resolution to its upcoming annual general meeting on 20 June to voluntarily close the organisation if there is no commitment forthcoming to fund a comprehensive domestic violence service. Only this week we heard the news that a 42-year-old man has been charged with the attempted murder of a 38-year-old woman in the bayside suburb of Alexandra Hills, a suburb that is covered by the Bayside domestic violence service. In the Cleveland Magistrates Court in the six-month July to December 2007 period there were a total of 238 domestic violence applications resulting in 180 orders and 76 temporary orders being made.

With the immense loss of the service provided by the BDVI the people of my electorate and neighbouring electorates will be left high and dry at times when they are feeling most exposed and in need of support from experienced and deeply caring personnel. I call on the Minister for Women and the Deputy Premier and member for Capalaba whose electorates are also served by this initiative to give further consideration to the application of BDVI for funding starting in the 2009-10 period as a last ditch chance to save this much-needed service for the women of bayside Brisbane.