




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ALBERT

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**CRIMINAL LAW (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE) AMENDMENT BILL; CORONERS
(DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW AND ADVISORY
BOARD) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (12.48 pm): I rise today to speak in the cognate debate on the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill and the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015. As everyone has certainly said in this chamber over the last day or so, domestic and family violence is absolutely and utterly disgraceful. It certainly is a blight on our modern society and has direct impacts on the liberty of individuals.

History tells us that we have progressed far as a society. We have created modern marvels through science and innovation as education has empowered our society. But there are those out there in our communities who obstruct the rights of others, whether it is through violence or verbal abuse. It is certainly not welcome in our modern society but, unfortunately, it is very prevalent.

This behaviour is totally and utterly unacceptable, and it is even more disturbing when it is instigated by a person who is in a relationship with them. It is an abuse of power by one person over another through fear and control. As a father of three children—I have a little boy and two little girls—I hope that we create a far better world in the future for them so they do not have to live with this scourge in our society.

In September 2014 the previous Newman government set about establishing a special task force headed by the former governor-general, Dame Quentin Bryce. This was a comprehensive review into domestic and family violence that handed down its report in February this year. The report was titled *Not now, not ever*. This report made 140 recommendations of which I am very happy the government has implemented 121.

To give some statistics, in 2013 there were 64,246 reported instances of domestic violence in Queensland. In 2012 we saw 12,828 breaches of domestic violence orders. In 2014, 18 of the 49 homicides in Queensland were directly related to domestic violence. Other members have spoken about the particulars when it comes to tougher legislation in the bill, especially the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill. I will not go into detail due to time constraints, but I 100 per cent agree that we need to get tough on this issue.

I would like to highlight the efforts of my local community groups and the local police which cover the wonderful electorate of Albert. The Coomera Police Station hosts a specialised domestic violence squad, which is made up of four officers. They work extremely hard in our community to combat this scourge. This is proven by a 95 per cent clearance rate of domestic violence cases in our local area. This has made a real impact, especially in the southern sections of my electorate and around the electorate.

The Beenleigh Police Station also hosts a specialised domestic violence squad. They have six officers and they have certainly hit the ground running. They currently have 100 high-risk cases on their

books, and it is sad but this number is increasing. The media is getting the word out there that people can come forward—and I certainly appreciate that people are doing that—but it is a blight on our society that this is happening. It is certainly a tough job for the front-line officers who turn up to these situations. I 100 per cent support everything they do.

I just want to elaborate on the STAAR program, which is a local program. STAAR stands for Standing Tall Against Abusive Relationships. It is a physical fitness program that is designed to empower women who have been subjected to or are currently subjected to an abusive relationship. This program is about getting mothers and certainly children involved. It consists of strength, conditioning and aerobic training sessions. The STAAR program is conducted within the electorate of Coomera at the Eagleby centre, and it is a fantastic program. I just want to put a good word in for them and thank them for their efforts.