



Speech By  
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**MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND**

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**DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION  
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (4.55 pm): I rise to address the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I am proud to stand up once again in the parliament to participate in the debate about domestic and family violence and to continue to stand up for victims of domestic and family violence in the Cleveland electorate. I note the policy objectives of the bill are to provide victims of domestic and family violence with access to earlier and more tailored protection, to ensure victim safety is at the forefront of the justice response to domestic and family violence, to require police to consider how immediate and effective protection can be provided to victims pending a court's consideration of an application for a domestic violence order, to provide for the automatic mutual recognition of DVOs made in other Australian jurisdictions through the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme—NDVOS—and to hold perpetrators of violence more accountable and work with them to change their behaviour.

The LNP while in government established the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in 2014. I am very proud of the work done by the LNP government to put the task force together. I commend the former minister and member for Aspley, Tracy Davis, former governor-general Quentin Bryce and the task force members for their good work. In February 2015 the special task force released its report *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland*. The ultimate objective of the task force was to totally eradicate violence from the family home. This is a huge task and requires everyone to do something about it.

The task force report recommended a number of amendments to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012. The policy objectives of this bill come as the result of recommendations from the task force report. The task force also recommended specific amendments to: introduce enabling legislation to allow information sharing between government and non-government agencies within integrated service responses with appropriate safeguards, including protection for the sharing of information without consent if a risk assessment indicates it is for the purpose of protecting the safety of a victim or their immediate family; and require courts to consider family law orders when making a DVO. Recommendation 140 of the task force report was for an overarching review of the act to ensure it provides a cohesive, legislative framework that incorporates the reforms recommended by the task force. In making this recommendation, the task force identified specific issues for consideration in the review including the current provisions and operation of police protection notices, PPNs, and the application of provisions relating to voluntary intervention orders.

The task force report also recommended that Queensland continue its commitment to develop and implement the NDVOS to achieve automatic mutual recognition and enforcement of domestic violence related orders across jurisdictions and support CrimTrac to develop a national domestic violence order information sharing system. I note that the government accepted these recommendations. The bill implements key outcomes of the review of the act. It also implements the

task force recommendations relating to information sharing and will enable Queensland to participate in NDVOS. I will focus my remaining time on the issues of information sharing and victim safety, particularly as they apply to my electorate of Cleveland.

The safety of those who are victims of domestic violence is critical. The measures in this bill go some way to improving the information which is shared through the justice process, courts and non-government organisations. With respect to personal information sharing, we do need to enhance the information needed for the protection of victims but we also need to make sure that the processes protect both the individuals and the information. The increase in the reported incidents of domestic violence in recent times in our society is of great concern, as is the amount of domestic violence that goes unreported. Vulnerable women and children require support and understanding to enable them to be proactive about their situation and their safety. It is important to ensure that processes for the immediate prioritisation of victims' safety are working. The enhanced processes for immediate prioritisation of victims' safety are a good step forward.

I have spoken many times in the past about domestic violence support organisations within my local community and electorate; however, the cutting of court support for domestic violence victims in the Cleveland court by the Bligh Labor government caused the community and me to fight back. In 2009 funding was cut for the Wynnum based bayside domestic violence court support, which included Wynnum and Cleveland courts. This service also covered the whole of Redland City. It was disgraceful that the then Labor government cut that support and left victims in my electorate with no support. I had to come here to parliament, stand up, give a speech and shame the minister of the day, Karen Struthers, who was the one who cut the funding. Cutting funds to an opposition electorate was the most disgraceful politicising of domestic violence that I have seen in my 7½ years here. After the government was shamed it reinstated the funding, and they are the facts on the record. I hope that this never happens again, as I will join with women's groups and my community once again if it does to fight the government. No such struggle existed under the LNP government, as Minister Davis and the government were strongly committed to a nonpartisan approach to fund such support for domestic violence victims.

A local organisation which does great work supporting domestic violence victims in Redlands is Maybanke Accommodation and Crisis Support Services. Maybanke provides access to safe accommodation and support for women and children escaping domestic violence. Other community groups and churches like Gateway Church have been greatly helpful in providing funding and needed items to such domestic violence groups, and I thank them for it. This is a great example of community groups, church groups and government working together for optimal outcomes for victims. The Working Against Violence Support Service, WAVSS, is the regional domestic and family violence service for Logan and Redlands. In September 2015 WAVSS launched the newly funded DFV service in the Redlands community. WAVSS offers support and counselling for people, predominantly women and children, who are experiencing domestic and family violence. In May of this year I attended a candlelight service at Raby Bay to support those affected by domestic and family violence. I joined many of the community and the Redlands mayor Karen Williams in their initiative. It is good to be able to work cooperatively with the Redlands mayor and council to support the community through local and state avenues.

As I have said many times before, while domestic violence exists in Queensland and is rife in our society I will continue to use whatever influence I have to challenge men to do the right thing and say no to domestic and family violence. I close by saying that I will always stand up for women and children in every kind of domestic violence situation, including those women currently not receiving help; the women who are domestic violence victims because they are being forced by their male partners into having unwanted abortions. I support the bill.