




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Record of Proceedings, 26 February 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Violence

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (7.18 pm): How do we end the scourge of violence occurring in our communities and households between neighbours and on the streets including repeat offender dangerous drivers, about which I have spoken before? Currently, in the Sunshine Coast region alone there are over 3,000—yes, 3,000—domestic violence orders in place. Those orders represent at least two residents, often with children. If averaged out at three persons, we are immediately talking about those orders involving at least 9,000 residents. At home in Noosa, over 50 per cent of our police time is spent dealing with violence in our households alone. This is shocking, shameful and preventable. Every single Queenslanders needs to take a moment to think about how we are contributing.

Early in March I will be opening and speaking at events in Noosa as part of International Women's Day and Queensland Women's Week where I will be calling out to our men and women to take up the challenge by working together in supporting, educating, collaborating and empowering those within their sphere of influence. We all need to be part of the change so desperately needed to put an end to the physical and emotional abuse, trauma and deaths occurring across Queensland.

How can we make a difference? It is when we commit to make changes within ourselves; if not for ourselves then for others. We can then help our partners, children, parents, grandparents, friends and workmates to do the same. We need women and men working together towards the solution, not separated through labelling or endeavours that create further silos or vilification. We need to relook at incarceration models if our full capacities in prisons are contributing to sentencing that does not meet community expectations.

This cycle cannot be broken without all of us accepting our personal and collective responsibility to each other whether it be how we communicate, what we normalise in our relationships, the types of posts we 'like' on Facebook or by simply remaining silent. The question may be: have we all, including MPs, become enablers? I now ask every single person across Queensland of all ages: will you help put an end to this violence, whether that be by becoming more knowledgeable, by attending any of the events during that week, joining an organisation dedicated to creating cultural or societal change or just by changing one part of your life that will positively impact those around you? If you are involved in domestic disputes, please utilise the many services available or start by just talking to someone.

We cannot do this alone and we cannot continue to expect government, front-liners and our community service organisations to increasingly take responsibility for what is ultimately our behaviours. We must acknowledge and take responsibility for our contributions to this.