




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ALBERT

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**DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND ANOTHER ACT
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (9.05 pm): I rise to make a very short contribution to the debate on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Another Act Amendment Bill 2015. Firstly, I thank the committee and the chair and the deputy chair of the committee for their input on this bill and for their recommendations. After hearing the member for Mudgeeraba's contribution today, I honestly do not feel anything I say will come close to the heartbreaking experiences that the individuals she was speaking about endured. It is a scourge on our society. It is scourge on modern Western society, especially our country. I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for her passionate plea and passionate speech.

We have all witnessed and heard the harrowing tales of domestic violence. I have certainly had individuals come to my office and I have met people out in the public arena who have told me what has transpired in their lives. I must say it is something I find extremely hard to comprehend. I lived in a family with good parents. We were not subject to anything like this. I lived in an area where there would have been a reasonably high rate of domestic violence. As a child I could see this in the community, but it was unfortunately swept under the carpet. It did not receive the attention it does today—especially not the attention it receives today after the recommendations in the *Not now, not ever* report. I thank Dame Quentin Bryce and members of the domestic and family violence task force for their recommendations which are aimed at extinguishing this blight on our society.

A lot of people have spoken in the debate on this bill. I highlight the provision around protecting the right of the victim to return to their home. There is nothing worse for children than having to move away from their friends and their school. That creates enormous disruption. That is not fair for those poor individuals. I commend that provision in the bill. That will go a long way in the healing process.

The bill also allows victims to express what has actually transpired in their lives to a magistrate in victim impact statements. I believe that that is certainly a way for them to try to get on with their lives and to move forward. I must say that of all the speeches I have done in this parliament this is something I find very difficult to talk about. After speaking to quite a few of my constituents, I am ashamed to say that in parts of my electorate we do have high rates of domestic violence. I admit that. It is something I am very ashamed about. But my local police at Coomera are doing a fantastic job of trying to get on top of this issue. They are very professional about it.

That leads me to my last comment. The police officers at Coomera are overworked. They are working extremely hard. There are 59 officers at the Coomera Police Station looking after 107,000 people in the Coomera district. We need to allocate a lot more resources to that police station to help those police officers get out there in the community and look after people who are in need. I wholeheartedly support the direction this bill is taking.