

Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

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Submission to the Education, Arts and Communities Committee Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

From:

City Women Toowoomba
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Date:

14/05/2025

General Position

City Women Toowoomba strongly supports the objectives of this Bill and commends the Queensland Government's efforts to enhance protections for victim survivors of domestic and family violence (DFV), as well as improve the efficiency of police and courts.

As an organisation committed to making Toowoomba a better place for women and girls, we regularly partner with local services and support those in our community who reach out when formal systems are not enough. One recent case we supported involved a woman who endured severe physical abuse, resulting in a weeklong hospitalisation. Despite the abuser being imprisoned, upon his release, he would reoffend, ultimately putting her and her children in constant fear. This cycle of re-trauma, which led to her losing custody of her children, shows the devastating effects of delayed protections. A timely response and better protections could have kept this family together and stopped the cycle of violence.

Key Areas of Support

1. Police Protection Directions (PPDs)

We support the proposed framework allowing police officers to issue immediate protection directions without needing to file a court application. In our experience, delays in protection can put women and children at further risk. This change will allow faster intervention and better safety outcomes.

2. Electronic Monitoring for High-Risk Perpetrators

We support the expansion of electronic monitoring for high-risk DFV offenders. GPS tracking sends a clear message that breaches of protection orders will be taken seriously and enables authorities to intervene before further harm occurs.

3. Video Recorded Evidence-in-Chief (VREC)

We support the expanded use of video-recorded evidence. Many women in our community have shared that speaking in court is intimidating and re-traumatising. Allowing pre-recorded statements will reduce emotional stress and make it more likely that victim survivors engage with the legal process.

4. Strengthening the Approved Provider List

We support efforts to maintain and strengthen the list of approved providers for DFV programs and counselling. Ensuring high standards and accountability in intervention programs is critical to long-term change in perpetrator behaviour.

Conclusion

We strongly urge the Committee to support the passage of the Bill, as we believe it will significantly improve police efficiency, provide greater protection for victim survivors, and support more effective intervention in domestic and family violence cases.

Thank you for considering our submission. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide further input or share stories from the community.

Kind regards,



Letitia Shelton
Chief Executive Officer
City Women Australia