

Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

Submission No:	4
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Re: Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 ('the Bill')

We have a long way to go to address DFV and make Queensland a safer community for all and I welcome the Queensland Government's commitment to further reform.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 Inquiry ('the Inquiry').

This submission will only focus on the introduction of a framework for police protection directions (PPDs) that will allow police officers to administratively issue immediate long-term protection directions, without filing an application for a proceeding before a court.

1. Introduction

About Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence (GCCASV)

GCCASV (formerly Gold Coast Sexual Assault Support Service) was founded on the Gold Coast in 1990. The agency is a feminist community based, not for profit, charitable organisation that has been providing free, confidential, specialist sexual violence intervention and prevention programs for the past 35 years. Our vision is safe communities free from sexual, domestic, and family violence. GCCASV provides a safe, supportive, woman-centred environment in which sexual, domestic and family violence survivors can begin their healing journey become aware of their own strengths and gain confidence and control of their lives. The organisation also provides community education and training to the public, schools, and other professionals. Since 2018, GCCASV has also delivered specialist counselling to domestic violence victim/survivors through our Women's Health and Wellbeing Program.

Informed by the work of GCCASV, I am able to provide commentary, concerns and a position in relation to sexual violence, domestic violence and the overlap where intimate partner sexual violence occurs.

2. Concerns

Introduction of police protection directions (PPDs)

GCCASV does not support the introduction of these changes as they do not prioritise women and children's safety from domestic and family violence (DFV). These changes may in fact decrease their safety and increase risk. Also, the bill may not even meet its policy objective of improved efficiencies for police responding to DFV and reduce the operational impacts of the current DFV legislative framework.

- PPDs are designed specifically to save police time NOT to increase the safety of victims.
- The absence of a no contact provision will mean the victim and the children can be subjected to ongoing harassment and violence from the perpetrator.
- Continued misidentification of the person who is most in need of protection at DFV incidents means victim-survivors may be left without protection.
- Appealing and extending PPDs will be difficult, requiring an application to court. Accessing legal services is very difficult and victims may have to act for themselves
- If court processes are removed there will be no oversight of police decisions.
- The *Not Now: Not Ever Report* recommended the increase in DVOs to 5 years to enhance victim safety and reduce court attendance. Reducing protective conditions from 5 years to 12 months is going backwards and leaves victims and their children more vulnerable
- Queensland is moving towards viewing domestic violence, in particular coercive control, as a course of conduct, a pattern of behaviour over time and PPD's reinforce an outdated incident-based approach to policing.

3. Pathway to safety

In addressing DFV and enhancing women's safety the Queensland Government should:

- Continue to implement recommendations made by the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce (WSJT)
- Invest in sustained funding for early intervention and prevention, Specialist DFV and SV, healing and recovery, women's refuges, women's health services and behaviour change programs.
- Support the continued improvement of policing of domestic and family violence including through the implementation of recommendations included in the Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence and WSJT recommendations.
- Ensure that any change to the legislation must have the safety and wellbeing of victim-survivors centred as the priority policy objective.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely,



Di Macleod

Director

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