

**Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025**

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<b>Submitted by:</b>	Services and Practitioners for the Elimination of Abuse Queensland (SPEAQ)
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SERVICES AND PRACTITIONERS  
FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ABUSE  
QUEENSLAND

*Supporting Family Safety – Working with Men to End Domestic and Family Violence*

28th May 2025

Committee Secretary  
Education, Arts and Communities Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000  
Email: [eacc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:eacc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Committee Members,

## **RE: DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AND OTHER PROTECTION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025**

The Services and Practitioners for the Elimination of Abuse Queensland (SPEAQ) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this legislative review in relation to the above and commends the intention to improve system responses to domestic and family violence (DFV) across Queensland. Our statewide network brings together practitioners and services that specialise in intervention services with persons using violence, including the men's behaviour change group program (MBCP) workforce, and we remain committed to ensuring that responses to DFV centre on safety, accountability, and meaningful opportunities for change.

Firstly, we note that Queensland Council of Social Service (QCOSS) has made a submission on this Bill. As part of the group that QCOSS represents, we have had input into that submission and endorsed its extensive considerations. Below we have highlighted two key matters which, as the network that brings together the voices of those working with people that use violence, we identify as needing to be distinctly called out.

### **Approved Providers List (APL)**

As a professional network of men's behaviour change specialists, SPEAQ strongly supports reforms to the Approved Provider List (APL). We have long advocated for mechanisms that uphold the quality and integrity of perpetrator intervention services. The APL, when current and transparent, is a vital accountability tool—not just for service providers, but for the justice system and the broader community.

We have observed cases where, due to limited oversight and unclear pathways to APL inclusion, inappropriate referrals have been made. The consequences are significant: unsafe or unskilled interventions can derail a respondent's behaviour change journey and compromise the safety of victim-survivors.

We welcome the proposal to clarify the APL through regulation and consider this a crucial step forward. However, regulatory development must be informed by practitioners with deep expertise in this field. Standards, oversight, and inclusion criteria should be co-designed with those working directly with men who use violence. This ensures the system maintains its integrity, centres safety, and builds public trust in responses to DFV.

## Police Protection Directives (PPDs)

SPEAQ shares serious concerns about the introduction and scope of Police Protection Directives (PPDs), as echoed by the QCOSS and others.

The concept of bypassing the court process through PPDs presents several risks—chief among them, the removal of a structured opportunity to engage respondents in supports aimed at accountability and behaviour change. While intended as a protective mechanism, PPDs could inadvertently create gaps in the system—particularly for individuals at the beginning of their contact with legal responses.

If PPDs are to be introduced, we strongly recommend a 12-month trial implementation of PPDs, conducted in at least two locations, including one regional or rural site. And it is essential that a robust, independent evaluation framework is embedded from the outset to allow for evidence-informed decision making and minimise unintended consequences. This evaluation must be grounded in practice and equity, with findings publicly released six months before the legislative review. Evaluation metrics must include:

- Impacts on police workload and court processing
- Victim/survivor safety and wellbeing
- Rates of breach and associated consequences
- Service engagement and accessibility for respondents

Equity impacts across priority demographics, including First Nations peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, LGBTQIA+ individuals, young people, and people with disabilities must also be considered.

The risks of implementing PPDs without this data-driven trial are considerable, particularly in under-resourced or remote contexts where systemic supports are already stretched. SPEAQ urges the panel to ensure this review includes a granular understanding of how reforms are experienced across population groups and geographies. If implementation disproportionately benefits metro areas while undermining safety and accountability in rural and regional Queensland—or fails to meet the needs of our most vulnerable cohorts—then the system is not meeting its obligations under the Act.

Finally, we note with particular concern the potential erosion of early intervention opportunities through the use of PPDs. The court process often acts as a critical intervention point—one that can direct men toward supports that challenge their use of violence and promote accountability. PPDs, as currently proposed, risk cutting off this access entirely—especially for younger men. For many, this point of system engagement may represent the only structured opportunity to enter a behaviour change program. Without this, we risk deepening cycles of violence and missing critical opportunities for early and effective intervention.

## Conclusion

SPEAQ appreciates the complexity of this legislative reform and recognises the government's intent to strengthen protections for victim-survivors. Our concern is that without robust mechanisms to evaluate, trial, and regulate key elements—particularly PPDs—the reforms may fall short of their potential to bring systemic change.

We urge the panel to centre accountability, equity, and practitioner insight in all reform measures. Ensuring quality in perpetrator interventions and maintaining clear, safe engagement pathways for those who use violence is essential to building a system that prevents future harm and supports lasting change.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat.

Kind Regards,

Dr Brodie Evans  
SPEAQ Secretary

**On behalf of the SPEAQ Network**

This document reflects the views of the SPEAQ Steering Committee, drawn from SPEAQ membership. A diversity of views may exist among the broader SPEAQ Membership.