

Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

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Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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Submitter Comments:

Submission on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 To whom it may concern, I am writing this submission in the capacity of a professional researcher in the field of domestic and family violence (DFV) and as a victim-survivor of coercive control. I strongly oppose the proposed Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, as I believe it will have far-reaching and harmful consequences for women and children in Queensland. While I acknowledge the intent behind this Bill may be to strengthen protections for those affected by DFV, the proposed amendments risk doing the opposite — by entrenching systemic issues that already fail to protect women and children adequately. My key concerns are outlined below: The misidentification of victim-survivors as perpetrators is a well-documented and significant issue within the Queensland and broader Australian context. Police training and responses to DFV are incident-based and do not adequately account for the ongoing patterns of coercive and controlling behaviour that underlies domestic violence. This incident-based lens can lead to catastrophic outcomes for women and children, as it fails to capture the complex dynamics of abuse, including how perpetrators manipulate systems and weaponise police responses. The Bill, as proposed, risks increasing the likelihood of misidentification, providing perpetrators with yet another tool to abuse and control their victims. It is well established that male-dominated policing cultures can perpetuate harm against women and children. The concerning prevalence of police officers themselves being perpetrators of DFV underscores the need for caution in expanding police powers or reliance on their judgement without robust, evidence-based safeguards. As a victim-survivor, I have experienced this misidentification firsthand. In response to finding out that I had attempted to seek help from police due to the domestic violence I was experiencing, my former partner self-inflicted visible injuries upon himself and called police to our home, falsely claiming I had assaulted him. I was the primary caregiver of our three-month-old, breastfed baby and five-year-old child at the time. I now carry the lifetime unfair burden of a false assault charge; however, had further action been taken by police – my children could have been placed in the care of a violent and abusive man, placing them at significant risk of harm. This is not an isolated incident; it is a reflection of systemic failures that this Bill risks exacerbating. The effectiveness of DVOs hinges on ensuring they are appropriately tailored to the specific risks and contexts of each case. Generic or poorly drafted conditions on DVOs, particularly when children are not named or specific contact restrictions are not included, can leave women and children exposed to further harm. Perpetrators often exploit vague or inadequate DVO conditions to continue their abuse. For example, they may use shared parenting arrangements to intimidate and control their current or former partner by withholding children, taking them from school, or manipulating handovers. Without precise and enforceable conditions on DVOs (such as those that allow education and child care providers to withhold children from a perpetrator parent), these forms of post-separation abuse and harm to children risk being exacerbated rather than reduced. I urge the Queensland Government to reconsider the proposed amendments. As a domestic violence academic and victim-survivor for more than a decade, I believe that this Bill will achieve the opposite of what it is intended to do and create further harm for women and children. Thank you for considering this submission. Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]