

Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

Submission No:	41
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Publication:	Making the submission and your name public
Attachments:	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	



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Secretary: Billie Stimpson

Committee Secretary
Education, Arts and Communities Committee
Parliament House
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EACC - Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 - Submission

30.05.2025

Re: Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 ('the Bill')

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

Much more must urgently be done to address DFV in our communities and we welcome the Queensland Government's commitment to further reform.

Queer and Trans Workers Against Violence (QTWAV) is a collaborative capacity-building group of LGBTIQ+ Sistergirl and Brotherboy professionals working across LGBTIQASB+ community organisations and Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence services in South East Queensland, we have continued to work together since January 2022. We consider the collaborative model of QTWAV to be a high standard exemplar of key principles within the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032:

- *Sexual, domestic and family violence services and programs led by LGBTIQ+ specialist services*
- *Building the capacity of the broader service system to respond to the needs of LGBTIQ+ people*
- *Collaboration and partnership between specialist domestic, family and sexual violence services and other services such as... LGBTIQ+ community organisations*
- *Work to address violence against LGBTIQ+ people... led by organisations and individuals within those communities, based on their own frameworks and priorities*

We support the Inquiry's goals to examine proposed amendments to the *Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Act 2012* (Qld) ('DFVP Act') and the *Evidence Act 1977* (Qld) ('Evidence Act').

Changes to Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) legislation should reflect recommendations made by the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. Any change must have the safety and wellbeing of victim-survivors as the priority policy objective.

While we support some amendments in the Bill, such as the further use of video-recorded evidence-in-chief in the correct context, we do not support reforms that will potentially endanger victim-survivors, such as police protection directions (PPDs).

Addressing Domestic and Family Violence

Gendered violence in Australia has been declared a national crisis by the Federal Government.¹ In Queensland, DFV services are experiencing unprecedented demand for help from victim-survivors. In 2024, Queensland recorded its highest number of offences of breach of a domestic violence protection order in at

¹ Ministers for the Department of Social Services. Working to end violence against women with rapid review into prevention approaches. 28 May 2024. Accessed 22 May 2025. <https://ministers.dss.gov.au/media-releases/14901>



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least 20 years, with a total of 69,528 offences recorded.² The number of calls to the Queensland Police Service (QPS) asking for help with DFV incidents has more than tripled between 2012-2024, from about 60,000 incidents to over 192,000.³ This is especially concerning given an estimated about 80 per cent of women do not report domestic violence inflicted by a current partner.⁴ This reporting trend is even more pronounced for LGBTIQASB+ people of all genders who are victims and survivors, 94% of whom did not report their most recent experience of DFV to police⁵. We further note that despite modest initial investment in targeted supports for LGBTIQASB+ Queenslanders experiencing DFV, there continues to be no sustainable core-funded DFV specialist programs for LGBTIQASB+ victims and survivors in QLD, despite evidence continuing to emerge that indicates that LGBTIQASB+ communities experience disproportionate rates of gendered violence⁶. We see that this is particularly concerning for LGBTIQASB+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, who are identified as a priority group under the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan 2023-2025⁷.

Establishing a framework for police protection directions (PPDs) to improve efficiencies for police

We strongly oppose the introduction of PPDs. Our concerns with PPDs include the following:

- PPDs are designed to save police time. They do not prioritise the safety and wellbeing of victim-survivors.
- Continued misidentification of the person who is most in need of protection at DFV incidents means victim-survivors will be left without protection.
- Appealing PPDs will be difficult, and legal services are not accessible or available for all people.
- Removal of court processes will result in the removal of important oversight of police decisions.
- There will be a reduced opportunity for referrals to support services and behavior change programs, which can occur in court and can be ordered by Magistrates.
- LGBTIQASB+ communities in Queensland need greater and sustained investment for specialist and generalist services to provide safe and accessible supports for LGBTIQASB+ people of all genders experiencing domestic and family violence. The urgent need for review of current investment specifications for DFV, as well as Sexual Violence and Women's Support Services is a critical factor in this.

² Queensland Police Service. Queensland Crime Statistics Advance Search based on 'Breach of Domestic Violence Protection Order' as of 16 January 2025. Accessed 16 January 2025: [Queensland Crime Statistics - Queensland Police News](https://www.qps.qld.gov.au/crime-statistics).

³ Minister for Police and Emergency Services Dan Purdie and the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Amanda Camm. Major reform for domestic and family violence puts victims ahead of perpetrators. 4 April 2025. Accessed 19 May 2025. [MEDIA STATEMENT: Major reform for domestic and family violence puts victims ahead of perpetrators - Ministerial Media Statements](https://www.mps.qld.gov.au/media-statements).

⁴ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. How do people respond to FDSV? 15 February 2024. 27 November 2024. Accessed December 2024. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/responses-and-outcomes/how-do-people-respond-to-fdsv>.

⁵ Hill, A. O., Bourne, A., McNair, R., Carman, M. & Lyons, A. (2020). Private Lives 3: The health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ people in Australia. ARCSHS Monograph Series No. 122. Melbourne, Australia: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University

⁶ Amos, N., Lim, G., Buckingham, P., Lin, A., Liddel-Hunt, S., Mooney-Somers, J., Bourne, A., on behalf of the Private Lives 3, Writing Themselves In 4, SWASH, Trans Pathways, Walkern Katatdj, and Pride and Pandemic teams (2023). Rainbow Realities: In-depth analyses of large-scale LGBTQA+ health and wellbeing data in Australia. Melbourne, Australia: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University.

⁷ <https://www.dss.gov.au/national-plan-end-gender-based-violence/resource/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-action-plan-2023-2025>



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To address domestic and family violence the Queensland Government should:

1. Continue to implement the recommendations from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce.
2. Prioritise the implementation of the Pride in Our Communities Action Plan
3. Invest comprehensively in services including early intervention and prevention, crisis services, shelters, healing and recovery, sexual violence support services, women's health services, LGBTIQASB+ health services, and accessible behaviour change programs.
4. 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.
5. Scale up support for the continued improvement of policing of domestic and family violence including through an increased implementation of the co-responder model across the state.

Video Recorded Evidence-in-Chief (VREC) framework

We support the extension of VREC in Magistrates Courts across the state alongside victim-centred training for police. This reform supports victim-survivors from being re-traumatised by having to retell their evidence to courts.

We do not support the removal of the requirement for police to be trained to take VREC.

Conclusion

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

Yours sincerely,

Billie Stimpson

Secretary,

Queer and Trans Workers Against Violence