

Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

Submission No:	47
Submitted by:	Local Government Association of Queensland
Publication:	Making the submission and your name public
Attachments:	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	



Every Queensland
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to be a liveable one

30 May 2025

Committee Secretary
Education, Arts and Communities Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

By email: eacc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

RE: LGAQ Submission – Domestic and Family Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

On behalf of Queensland's 77 local governments and the communities they represent, the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Education, Arts and Communities Committee on the Domestic and Family Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (the Bill), introduced on 30 April 2025.

The LGAQ understands the primary objective of the Bill is to improve productivity for operational police officers when responding to Domestic and Family Violence (DFV), provide victim-survivors with immediate protections against respondents and make other technical amendments to DFV legislation. We also understand the Bill also proposes to amend the *Evidence Act 1977* to expand the video-recorded evidence-in-chief (VREC) framework.

The Bill achieves this by:

- Establishing a framework for police protection directions (PPDs) to improve efficiencies for police responding to DFV and reduce the operational impacts of the current DFV legislative framework;
- Supporting a Global Positioning System (electronic monitoring) pilot for high-risk DFV perpetrators consistent with the Government's election commitment;
- Simplifying, streamline and expand the VREC framework statewide to support victim-survivors of DFV;
- Clarifying that a VREC statement can be considered in civil proceedings under the DFVP Act;
- Making other technical amendments to the DFVP Act to strengthen the maintenance of the Approved Provider List (APL).

In preparing this submission, the LGAQ has considered the LGAQ Policy Statement, previous LGAQ Annual Conference resolutions and direct feedback from Queensland councils regarding the Bill.

The LGAQ Policy Statement¹ is a definitive statement of the collective voice of local government in Queensland and contains the following agreed policy positions of Queensland councils regarding DFV:

7.2.6 Domestic and Family Violence

7.2.6.1 Local government will continue to support measures to assist the prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, including, but not limited to:

7.2.6.2 supporting and promoting local community efforts to end domestic and family violence; and,

7.2.6.3 partnering with the State Government to raise community understanding and recognition of coercive and controlling behaviours.

¹ https://www.lgaq.asn.au/files/assets/public/v/1/advocacy/publications-files/2023_lgaq_policy_statement.pdf



In addition, three resolutions have been passed by Queensland councils at recent LGAQ Annual Conferences on matters relating to DFV and First Nations communities that relate to the Bill as outlined below:

- **Resolution 13 (2023): Review of Blue Card Framework** - *The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to review the blue card framework so historical offences of a non-serious nature and not involving children are not taken into account.*
- **Resolution 136 (2022): Domestic Violence in Regional, Remote and Rural Communities** - *The LGAQ calls on the State Government to advocate for more funding to be directed to community support services in all local government areas who have high levels of need for assistance and support to those who are experiencing or have lived experience of domestic and family violence.*
- **Resolution 83 (2021): Funding for Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence** - *The LGAQ calls on the State Government to provide recurrent funding for local services that provide support and programs for the prevention of the Domestic and Family Violence crisis in the State. Funding will also be sought for programs to raise the community understanding and recognition of coercive and controlling behaviours. The LGAQ policy statement will be reviewed to include the content of this motion.*

As the closest level of government to the community, Queensland councils are acutely aware of the negative impact of DFV across the state and recognise the disproportionately high rates of DFV experienced by First Nations people.

Local government plays a vital role collaborating and working with councils on behalf of their local communities throughout Queensland, including First Nations communities in remote and discrete regions. In addition, local government, including Queensland's 17 remote and discrete First Nations councils, have long worked in partnership to strengthen and enhance community participation to provide First Nations communities with a greater say on, and input into matters that effect their lives.

The LGAQ supports the State Government in strengthening laws that protect people at risk of DFV and acknowledges that some initiatives put forward in the Bill will help to achieve this, such as the electronic monitoring pilot for high-risk DFV perpetrators and making other technical amendments to the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* (DFVP Act) to strengthen the maintenance of the APL.

The LGAQ agrees the QPS requires additional tools to be able to respond to increasing demand and meet community expectations. However, the current legislation does not adequately recognise the broader range of issues and circumstances of First Nation communities.

Some councils have expressed concerns that some other aspects of the Bill seek to introduce changes to improve productivity for operational police officers when responding to DFV, without understanding the full impacts to Queensland communities, particular our First Nations communities.

Specifically, implementation of a statewide roll-out of the PPDs from 1 January 2026, without trialling such an initiative to understand the full impacts on all Queensland communities, may lead to a range of unintended consequences.

As the explanatory notes on the Bill outline:

Currently, a Police Protection Notice (PPN) can be taken to be an application to the court for a protection order, meaning that temporary conditions imposed by police are reconsidered by a court as soon as possible. Enabling police officers to make a final 12-month PPD, rather than



having the matter dealt with through the judicial process, means that the respondent's right to have the matter heard by a court will depend on the respondent initiating a review by the Magistrates Court.

PPDs may also lead to tensions or conflicts within communities, especially if the directions are perceived as unjust or culturally insensitive. Historical tensions between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and law enforcement could be exacerbated if the directions are seen as another form of external control.

In First Nations communities where there is already a lack of housing and social services, the issuing of a PPD in many situations could lead to persons becoming homeless with little to no support to initiate oversight from the Magistrates Court. As such, it is critical that a trailing of the proposed reforms be undertaken first, before any legislative amendments are made to mandate this approach, so that unintended consequences can be identified and appropriate mitigation measures put in place.

Consistent with the calls of Queensland councils, the LGAQ continues to seek further changes to the Blue Card system to not preclude people who have historical offences of a non-serious nature and not involving children. This would allow people to take up jobs at council, volunteer for emergency services, or take on mentoring roles in their community. The reforms proposed in this Bill have the potential to exclude community members from attaining a Blue Card and therefore some forms of employment based on the opinion of a police officer and without the question of appropriateness being adjudicated by a magistrate.

Overall, the LGAQ makes 3 key recommendations for consideration of the Committee:

- **Recommendation 1:** The LGAQ recommends the Bill be amended to enable a trial of the new framework for PPDs in areas with high DFV rates, before consideration of a statewide mandatory approach.
- **Recommendation 2:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government reviews the blue card framework so historical offences of a non-serious nature and not involving children are not taken into account.
- **Recommendation 3:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government increases funding for the prevention of DFV across all local government areas with high levels of need for assistance and support to those who are experiencing or have lived experience of domestic and family violence.

The LGAQ looks forward to the State Government's continued engagement with local government in responding to DFV in Queensland communities.

Please do not hesitate to contact Crystal Baker, Manager – Strategic Policy via [REDACTED] or Jo Dawson, Lead – Community Development Policy and Projects via [REDACTED] or phone [REDACTED] should you wish to discuss any aspect of this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Smith
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER