

Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

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**Response to the *Domestic and Family Violence
Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill
2025***



Education, Arts and Communities Committee, Queensland Government.

May 2025

Executive Summary

Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) supports the intent of the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* to strengthen protections for victim-survivors, including through faster access to safety via Police Protection Directions (PPDs), expanded use of video-recorded evidence-in-chief (VREC), and improved monitoring of high-risk perpetrators. However, for these reforms to work for people with disability need to consider people with disability as both victims and offenders and look at unintended consequences and the need for access to natural justice and procedural fairness. It is important that they are implemented in ways that are inclusive, accessible, trauma-informed, and aligned with human rights principles under the *Queensland Human Rights Act 2019* and *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*. They must also reflect the recommendations of the Disability Royal Commission.

The implementation of the Police Protection Direction (PDD) potentially will reinforce current risks of misidentification by police as to who is the person most in need of protection. Additionally, for offenders with intellectual and cognitive disability, this legislation has the potential to impact on disproportionate criminalisation risk. Without adequate legislative measures that include procedural safeguards, people with intellectual and cognitive disability face discrimination, risks and barriers to adequate representation, advocacy and support. Whilst additional training has been put in place, this does not specifically focus on disability and has not prevented the ongoing issue of misidentification. This approach risks increasing misidentification of victim-survivors and disproportionately harming people with disability—particularly those with cognitive, psychosocial, or communication disabilities. Such punitive models, without proper safeguards, could result in the criminalisation of people already marginalised and misunderstood within the justice system.

Lived experience feedback from QDN members highlights widespread barriers in the DFV system, including inaccessible information, lack of communication support, and being misidentified or disbelieved by police and courts. Some members were excluded from support services or criminalised due to disability-related behaviours. QDN urges the Government to ensure that the implementation of PPDs and VREC includes safeguards to protect people with disability from harm and exclusion.

QDN believes these reforms are an important step toward improving safety, dignity, and justice for people with disability—but only if inclusion, equity, and accountability are embedded at every stage.

About Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN)

Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) is a state-wide, not-for-profit organisation led by and for people with disability, dedicated to advancing rights, inclusion, and systemic reform. As Queensland's Executive Peak Body for people with disability, QDN represents over 3,000 members across diverse communities, ensuring lived experience is central to shaping policy, services, and supports. Guided by the motto "nothing about us without us," QDN's work is grounded in co-design, inclusion, and collaboration. Through peer networks, leadership development, and advocacy, QDN informs and influences change that promotes equity, accessibility, and participation for all Queenslanders with disability.

Introduction

QDN welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the review of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. People with disability are disproportionately affected by domestic and family violence (DFV) and frequently encounter barriers when trying to access safety and justice. Our members have shared personal accounts of their experiences with police, courts and support services—often describing these systems as confusing, inaccessible, or retraumatising.

QDN supports the intent of the Bill to provide faster protection, reduce trauma, and enhance system responses. Key reforms, such as Police Protection Directions (PPDs) and the use of video-recorded evidence, have potential to significantly improve outcomes. However, for these changes to benefit people with disability, reforms must be delivered in ways that prioritise accessibility, embed supported decision-making, ensure inclusive communication, access to appropriate supports including advocacy or support persons and procedural safeguards from the outset.

QDN also acknowledges broader sector concerns and the potential risks exacerbating systemic issues of misidentification and over-criminalisation, especially for people with disability who already face barriers to being recognised and supported within legal and service systems. Misidentification remains a serious and unresolved issue across Queensland's police and justice systems, and measures that introduce automatic criminalisation—such as Police Protection Directions that act as on-the-spot offences—carry a significant risk of criminalising victim-survivors, particularly those who are misidentified or whose disabilities are misunderstood.

QDN shares the sector's view that reforms to the DFV system should strengthen, not weaken, the role of preventative and integrated service responses. QDN supports a whole-of-government and whole-of-community approach, guided by principles of safety, dignity, accessibility and human rights, remains essential.

This submission highlights both the opportunities and the risks these reforms present for people with disability. It includes practical, lived experience-informed recommendations to ensure equitable access to safety and justice, and to prevent the unintended consequence of further marginalisation. QDN urges that reforms be implemented with people with disability, not just for them, to ensure no one is left behind in Queensland's DFV response system.

Overview of people with disability and DFV

People with disability experience DFV at significantly higher rates than the general population. National research by ANROWS¹ shows that women with disability are nearly twice as likely to experience violence from a current or former partner than women without disability. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare² confirms that people with disability are more likely to experience prolonged, multiple and complex forms of abuse, yet face greater challenges accessing support due to systemic barriers — including inaccessible legal systems, a lack of disability awareness in DFV services and limited access to appropriate communication supports in Queensland.

The *Queensland Human Rights Act 2019*³ and the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*⁴ provide strong legal frameworks that affirm the rights of people with disability to equality before the law, protection from inhumane treatment and access to justice and support services free from discrimination. These laws require inclusive responses that provide reasonable adjustments and uphold dignity and safety for all. To align with these obligations, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 must embed accessible, rights-based practices from the outset — including supported decision-making, trauma-informed responses and co-design with people with lived experience of disability and DFV.

The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability⁵ found that people with disability are frequently disbelieved, misidentified as perpetrators, or excluded from support systems due to inaccessibility and ableism. It recommended that DFV systems be co-designed with people with disability (Recommendation 10.21)⁶ and be culturally safe, inclusive and rights-based. These findings reinforce QDN's position that the Bill's reforms must not only remove barriers but proactively safeguard against discrimination and exclusion. While QDN applauds the commencement of Queensland's coercive control laws on 25 May 2025, members remain cautiously optimistic— noting that without mandatory disability-informed training for police, courts, and services, these reforms risk entrenching inequality rather than delivering justice.

What QDN members have told us:

QDN's submission is informed by the lived experience of people with disability across Queensland who cautiously support the intent of the *Domestic and Family Violence*

¹ ANROWS (2020). *Women with Disability and Domestic and Family Violence: Barriers to Access and Support*. <https://www.anrows.org.au>

² Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) (2022). *People with disability in Australia*. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/disability/people-with-disability-in-australia>

³ Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)

⁴ Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (Qld)

⁵ Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (2023). *Summary and Recommendations*. <https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/final-report-summary-and-recommendations>

⁶ Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (2023). *Final Report – Volume 6: Realising the human rights of people with disability in places of detention, education and domestic settings*. <https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/final-report>

Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. Members recognised the potential for quicker protection through Police Protection Directions (PPDs) and less traumatic legal processes, such as the use of video-recorded evidence. However, they also raised serious concerns about whether these reforms will be accessible and inclusive in practice, particularly for people with cognitive, psychosocial and communication disabilities. Members stressed that without appropriate supports, these measures could further marginalise those already disadvantaged by current systems.

Many people with disability shared experiences of navigating police, courts and DFV services that were inaccessible, confusing and retraumatising. Members spoke of being disbelieved, having their disabilities misunderstood and being denied support or clear explanations of legal processes. There were calls for disability liaison officers within police services, the provision of accessible information such as Easy Read materials and flowcharts and a greater emphasis on supported decision-making. Importantly, members also urged for attention to the experiences of respondents with disability, highlighting the need for accessible monitoring and justice processes that are not punitive or exclusionary. These insights underline the critical need for systemic reform that embeds accessibility, communication support and disability inclusion at every level of the DFV response. This includes police, courts, refuges and support services. The voices of QDN members reflect a broader call for a system that not only protects but also respects and supports people with disability—both as victim-survivors and as offenders in legal processes. Without these reforms, the safety and rights of people with disability will continue to be compromised.

QDN members have also talked about the importance of considerations for the impact of this legislation for offenders with intellectual and cognitive disability and it is critical that they can access natural justice, procedural fairness and safeguards which will require specialist knowledge to be included in the approval and review mechanisms.

Summary of the Legislation

The *Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* was introduced to the Queensland Parliament on 30 April 2025 and referred to the Education, Arts and Communities Committee for review. The Bill proposes several key reforms to strengthen protections for victim-survivors and improve the efficiency of police and court responses to domestic and family violence (DFV).

Key changes include:

- **Police Protection Directions (PPDs):** Allowing police to issue immediate, short-term protection orders without requiring a court process.
- **Electronic monitoring pilot:** Introducing 24/7 GPS monitoring for high-risk DFV perpetrators, alongside safety devices for victim-survivors.
- **Video-recorded evidence-in-chief (VREC):** Expanding access to video-recorded evidence across all Magistrates Courts and clarifying its use in civil proceedings.

- **Changes to the Approved Provider List:** Strengthening how intervention programs are monitored and delivered.
- **Technical amendments:** Updating legislation to improve clarity, consistency, and operational processes.

The Bill aims to provide quicker access to safety measures, reduce the trauma of court processes and hold perpetrators more accountable. QDN's response focuses on ensuring these reforms are inclusive, accessible, and effective for people with disability.

Section 1: QDN Recommendations

QDN provides the following specific recommendations for consideration in the implementation of the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025*.

1. Mandate intellectual, cognitive and disability screening as part of the police risk and needs assessment before issuing a PPD.
2. Require police to formally consider cognitive capacity and disability status when deciding whether a PPD is appropriate, including the potential for misunderstanding or unintentional non-compliance.
3. Require police to use Easy Read or plain language formats when explaining a PPD and ensure this information is provided both verbally and in writing.
4. Provide access to communication supports or intermediaries for people with known or suspected cognitive impairments during PPD discussions.
5. Require that police document reasonable steps taken to ensure the respondent understands the direction and consequences of non-compliance.
6. Require PPDs involving a respondent with known or suspected disability to be reviewed by a senior officer trained in disability awareness prior to approval.
7. Introduce an automatic review trigger for PPDs where the respondent has a recorded cognitive or intellectual disability, to ensure fairness and necessity.
8. Require collection and reporting of disability-related data in the use of PPDs to monitor equity, evaluate impacts, and improve responses.
9. Establish independent oversight or auditing mechanisms to ensure PPDs are not disproportionately applied to people with disability.

Additionally QDN provides the following broad underpinning recommendations with regards to the implementation of the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025*.

Recommendation	Immediate Priorities	Longer-Term Priorities
1. Disability-inclusive and trauma-informed training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandate disability and trauma-informed training for police, courts and DFV providers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed ongoing role-specific training across all systems. • Monitor training effectiveness with

Recommendation	Immediate Priorities	Longer-Term Priorities
2. Accessible communication and supported decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training co-designed and delivered by people with lived experience. • Provide legal documents and processes in Easy Read, plain language, Auslan and accessible formats. • Offer communication and decision-making support as standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> accountability mechanisms and lived experience feedback. • Embed communication access as a legal right. • Develop national supported decision-making frameworks across legal and DFV sectors.
3. Inclusive safety technologies and legal processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-design VREC, safety devices and monitoring systems with people with disability. • Ensure physical, sensory, and cognitive accessibility from the start. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuously review and adapt technology design based on accessibility testing and user feedback. • Establish inclusive technology standards across government contracts.
4. Accessible and accountable intervention programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set and enforce accessibility standards for the Approved Provider List. • Monitor disability access, referral and completion rates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand inclusive regional delivery models. • Require co-design with people with disability to ensure cultural and contextual relevance.
5. Lived experience-led implementation and oversight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a lived experience advisory group. • Involve people with disability in all implementation and evaluation processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect and publicly report disaggregated data. • Strengthen independent oversight, inclusive evaluation, and accessible complaints mechanisms.

Section 2: Overall response to changes in the Bill

QDN welcomes the intent of the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* to strengthen safety and improve system responses to domestic and family violence. The proposed changes—particularly PPDs, VREC and electronic monitoring of high-risk perpetrators—have the potential to improve immediate protection and reduce trauma for victim-survivors.

However, QDN is concerned that unless these reforms are designed and implemented with the needs of people with disability in mind, they may not be fully accessible or equitable. People with disability—particularly those with cognitive, psychosocial, or communication support needs—may face challenges understanding protection orders, giving video evidence or using safety devices. Without appropriate supports, training and accessible information, the benefits of these reforms may not be realised by all. Additionally, there are further considerations needed for offenders/respondents with disability including specifically people with intellectual or cognitive disability to prevent disproportionate criminalisation. QDN strongly supports the Bill’s goals but urges that accessibility, supported decision-making, inclusive communication and safeguards against discrimination or misidentification and access to procedural fairness and appropriate supports for people with disability be embedded throughout the implementation process.

How the reforms impact disability

QDN supports the intent of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, which introduces important reforms that could improve safety, justice and dignity for people with disability. Key measures such as PPDs, VREC and electronic monitoring for high-risk perpetrators offer the potential to provide faster protection, reduce trauma and enhance the sense of control and security for victim-survivors with disability.

However, the benefits of these reforms will only be realised if they are implemented in ways that are inclusive, accessible, and rights-based. QDN is concerned that, without the right safeguards, the reforms could unintentionally create new barriers — particularly for people with cognitive, psychosocial or communication disabilities. Risks include a lack of accessible information, poor communication support, inaccessible technologies, misidentification as perpetrators and pressure to engage in legal processes without adequate support or understanding.

Specifically for people with intellectual or cognitive disability the PPD framework may unintentionally result in adverse outcomes for respondents with intellectual and cognitive disability unless additional procedural safeguards, tailored communication, and support mechanisms are embedded in practice. This includes disability awareness training for police, access to advocacy and legal support, and a formalised requirement to consider capacity and support needs prior to issuing a PPD.

Areas to be considered include:

1. Access to Natural Justice and Procedural Fairness

While the Bill requires police to make reasonable attempts to locate and speak to the respondent before issuing a PPD, individuals with intellectual or cognitive disability may face challenges in understanding the nature and implications of the direction and lead to risks

around comprehension of conditions imposed, their legal obligations, or the consequences of breach—especially in the absence of legal representation or advocacy support.

2. Disproportionate Criminalisation Risk

A contravention of a PPD carries the same maximum penalty as breach of a DVO—120 penalty units or 3 years imprisonment. Offenders with intellectual or cognitive disabilities may be more susceptible to inadvertently breaching PPD conditions due to memory issues, lack of understanding of the PPD conditions and requirements and consequences of breaching thus increasing the likelihood of criminalisation.

3. Limited Safeguards for Disability-Specific Circumstances

The legislative framework includes some procedural safeguards, such as requirements for senior officer approval and review mechanisms. However, it does not explicitly require police to consider cognitive capacity or disability status in their decision-making or when explaining the direction. Without mandatory disability-informed practice or specialist assessment, PPDs may be issued without appropriate adjustments or supports.

4. Barriers to Effective Review

Both police-initiated and court-based review processes exist for PPDs, but accessing these mechanisms requires understanding legal rights and procedural steps. Individuals with cognitive disability may lack the capacity to lodge a review, seek legal advice, or effectively advocate for themselves without support, especially in time-sensitive contexts.

5. Potential for Misidentification

The Bill seeks to prevent issuing PPDs where both parties appear to be in need of protection and the primary aggressor cannot be identified. Nonetheless, people with intellectual or cognitive disabilities are at increased risk of being misidentified as perpetrators, particularly where they exhibit behavioural symptoms or communication difficulties that are misunderstood by responding officers.

To mitigate these risks and ensure equitable outcomes, QDN recommends makes specific recommendations relating to PPDs outlined in Section 1 and additionally broad recommendations to underpin that includes embedding disability awareness and trauma-informed training across all frontline services, making accessible communication and supported decision-making standard practice and involving people with disability in co-design and oversight. These reforms must be implemented with the active involvement of people with disability to ensure that safety and justice are not only promised but delivered in practice.

Section 3: Fair, accessible and effective reforms

People with disability have the right to fully understand, participate in and benefit from legal and safety processes, including seeking protection orders, giving evidence and navigating the justice system. For this to happen, these systems must be designed from the

outset to be inclusive, accessible and supportive. Accessibility cannot be an afterthought — it is fundamental to achieving equal rights, safety and justice.

QDN members have made it clear that when the right supports are in place, people with disability can actively and meaningfully participate in legal processes. Essential supports include accessible formats like Easy Read, Auslan, large print and visual aids, as well as the presence of support people or advocates throughout legal proceedings. Clear communication, additional time to process information, quiet environments and supported decision-making tools also play a critical role in ensuring people with disability can engage with confidence and dignity.

To ensure successful implementation, the system must also invest in ongoing disability-informed and trauma-aware training for professionals. Inclusive safety technologies, accessible video evidence processes and access to advocacy and peer support are vital. Importantly, people with lived experience of disability and DFV must be involved in the co-design, delivery and evaluation of reforms. Only by embedding accessibility and lived experience at every level can the system truly work for all Queenslanders.

Experiences of engaging with police and courts

QDN members and peer leaders have shared that engaging with police and courts in the context of domestic and family violence (DFV) is often confusing, distressing or unsafe for people with disability. Many reported not being believed, having their disability misunderstood or being misidentified as perpetrators. A lack of communication supports — such as Easy Read materials, interpreters, or advocates — further compounded these challenges, leading to re-traumatisation and disempowerment. However, where systems were trauma-informed, communication adjustments were offered and advocates were involved, people felt more supported and respected.

The proposed reforms in the Bill, including Police Protection Directions and video-recorded evidence, offer real potential to reduce trauma, increase safety and enhance access to justice. But these benefits will only be realised if implementation includes appropriate safeguards — such as supported decision-making, trained staff accessible environments and genuine choice. Without these, there is a risk that reforms could inadvertently exclude or further harm those they are meant to protect.

Navigating legal systems remains particularly difficult for people with disability when communication needs are not recognised or accommodated. QDN members highlighted that without accessible information, support people or the time to process decisions, legal systems can become retraumatising and unjust. These experiences reinforce the urgent need to embed accessible communication and supported decision-making as core features of the DFV response — not as optional extras — and to ensure that co-design with people with disability drives ongoing reform.

Accessibility issues

QDN members have consistently shared that seeking help from police or courts in DFV situations is often confusing, unsafe and retraumatising for people with disability. Many described barriers such as not being believed, having to retell traumatic stories without support or being misidentified as perpetrators due to misunderstood disability-related behaviours. The absence of communication supports like Easy Read materials, Auslan interpreters, or trusted support people often left individuals feeling dismissed and excluded from justice processes.

While some members reported positive experiences when systems were trauma-informed and disability-aware, most emphasised the urgent need for systemic reform. Reforms such as PPDs and VREC have strong potential to reduce trauma, increase safety and provide more timely protection for people with disability. However, without safeguards — including trained professionals, supported decision-making and accessible environments — these processes risk becoming exclusionary or harmful. Co-design with people with disability is essential to ensure these tools work in practice.

Understanding and navigating legal systems remains a significant challenge for people with disability. QDN calls for accessibility and inclusion to be embedded across all stages of the DFV system — from frontline police responses to court processes and intervention programs. This includes proactive communication support, disability-informed training and clear, accessible information. When these elements are in place, people with disability are better able to participate with confidence, dignity, and safety.

Inclusive intervention and safety

To ensure domestic and family violence (DFV) intervention programs are inclusive and accessible, systemic changes are needed across program design, delivery, and oversight. Programs on the Approved Provider List must be inclusive of diverse communication, cognitive, sensory and physical needs. Materials should be offered in accessible formats such as Easy Read, plain English and Auslan, and include content that reflects the lived experiences of people with disability, including dynamics like carer abuse and communication-based violence.

Capacity building for service providers is essential. This includes mandatory disability awareness and inclusive practice training for those delivering court-ordered or behavioural programs. These programs need to be designed and delivered based upon evidence informed practice particularly for people with intellectual and cognitive disability. Co-design with people with disability and disability advocacy organisations must be embedded to ensure programs are relevant, respectful, and usable. People with disability may need adjustments such as interpreters, communication aids or support people and these supports should be readily available without penalising program completion or legal compliance.

Equally important is the establishment of inclusive referral pathways and strong accountability mechanisms. Legal and court systems must be equipped to refer individuals to suitable programs rather than defaulting to inaccessible mainstream services. Flexible delivery models, including regional and remote access and online options, should be supported. The Approved Provider List must include accessibility standards and mechanisms

for feedback and quality assurance. Without these reforms, people with disability risk exclusion or disadvantage. QDN calls for action to ensure equity, safety and justice are embedded throughout the DFV response system.

Accountability mechanisms

To ensure the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* delivers meaningful change for people with disability, robust accountability mechanisms must be embedded from the outset. Without transparent monitoring, evaluation, and feedback loops, there is a significant risk that reforms may fall short in practice, leaving people with disability without equal access to safety, justice and support. Accountability must not be an afterthought but a central pillar of the reform process.

QDN recommends the establishment of a disability-inclusive advisory group comprising people with lived experience, advocacy organisations and frontline professionals. This group would guide the implementation of reforms and monitor unintended consequences, particularly in areas like PPDs, video-recorded evidence, and intervention programs. Additionally, the collection and public reporting of disaggregated data on the experiences of people with disability within the DFV system is essential to track progress, identify gaps and drive continuous improvement.

Strengthening oversight and complaints pathways is also crucial. Accessible, independent avenues for lodging and resolving complaints must be well-promoted and responsive to the needs of people with disability. Mandatory, ongoing training in disability awareness and human rights for all professionals involved in the reforms, alongside the development of enforceable accessibility standards, will help embed inclusive practice system-wide. Monitoring the discretionary use of police-issued PPDs will be key to ensuring they are applied fairly and do not result in discriminatory outcomes.

Required training for police, courts and services

To ensure the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* achieves equitable outcomes for people with disability, QDN stresses the need for comprehensive, disability-informed training across police, courts and DFV service sectors. This training must move beyond basic awareness, focusing instead on the real-world application of reforms through inclusive, human rights-based and trauma-informed approaches. Training should be tailored to the roles of specific professionals and co-designed with people with disability to reflect lived experience and ensure practical relevance.

Core elements of effective training must include increasing disability and DFV literacy, promoting accessible communication and embedding supported decision-making. Staff must learn to recognise diverse access needs and respond appropriately with tools such as Easy Read resources, Auslan interpreters and communication aids. Training should also foster respectful, rights-based engagement and reinforce obligations under the *Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)*. Real-world scenarios, case studies and role plays should be used to strengthen learning outcomes and foster inclusive problem-solving.

Finally, QDN calls for disability-inclusive DFV training to become a standard, ongoing component of professional development. This must be supported by strong accountability systems, leadership commitment and continuous improvement processes, including regular feedback from people with disability. When implemented well, such training becomes a critical safeguard, ensuring that reforms do not inadvertently perpetuate harm but instead deliver respectful, effective responses to people with disability experiencing DFV.

Section 4: Closing points

People with disability shouldn't be left behind

To ensure that people with disability are not left behind in the rollout of the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025*, QDN calls for a strong, inclusive implementation approach that centres lived experience and rights. People with disability must be involved from the outset through genuine co-design processes that shape how reforms are delivered, including communication tools, procedures, support mechanisms and evaluation strategies. Embedding this lived expertise is essential to designing systems that are responsive, accessible and effective.

QDN makes specific recommendations in regards to the implementation of PPDs and also highlights six key overarching priorities to underpin implementation: co-design with people with disability; universal design and accessibility built into all reforms; clear accessibility and training standards; monitoring through disaggregated data; independent oversight through a lived experience advisory group and accessible, safe feedback mechanisms. Each priority ensures that reforms such as PPDs, video evidence processes, safety devices and intervention programs are inclusive and equitable in both intent and impact.

QDN acknowledges the need for reforms that deliver improved safety and outcomes for victims and it is critical that these reforms improve safety and justice for all Queenslanders which includes people with disability. It is critical that accessibility, inclusion and accountability are treated as foundational elements. The Queensland Government is urged to lead with transparency, equity and a commitment to co-design, ensuring the systems intended to protect do not exclude or harm those most at risk.

Conclusion

QDN supports the Queensland Government's commitment to strengthening DFV responses and welcomes the intent of the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* to deliver faster and more effective protections for victim-survivors. The Bill presents an important opportunity to address gaps in current systems and provide earlier, safer interventions for people at risk. However, it is critical that the needs and impacts of this legislation on people with disability are considered and inform the functions and implementation.

People with disability experience DFV at significantly higher rates and often face unique and compounding barriers to safety, justice and support. For the reforms to succeed, they must be inclusive by design — embedding accessibility, supported decision-making, inclusive

communication and leadership from people with lived experience of disability and DFV across all stages of implementation and monitoring.

QDN urges the Queensland Government and the Education, Arts and Communities Committee to lead by example and ensure the final legislation reflects best practice in disability-inclusive, rights-based policy. This means ensuring reforms remove barriers rather than creating new ones and are co-designed with the people most affected. In doing so, Queensland can deliver a safer, more equitable DFV response for all.