

Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

Submission No: 002

Submission By: The Red Rose Foundation

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Committee Secretary
Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
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Dear Committee Secretariat,

RE: Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

The Red Rose Foundation welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's inquiry into the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, which proposes amendments relating to the governance and membership of the Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board (QDFVDRAB).

The Red Rose Foundation is Australia's only charity with a core mission to learn from domestic violence related deaths to prevent future fatalities. Our founder, Betty Taylor AM, was a founding member of the QDFVDRAB following many years of advocacy for the establishment of a review process capable of identifying systemic lessons from domestic violence deaths.

Over the last two decades, through our work supporting victim-survivors of high-risk domestic violence and engaging with families bereaved by domestic violence related deaths, the Foundation has developed significant national and international knowledge of domestic violence fatality review processes and best practice approaches to prevention.

The Red Rose Foundation supports the intent of the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, particularly measures aimed at strengthening the governance and effectiveness of the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board in fulfilling its core function.

The Foundation also welcomes the opportunity to offer several additional suggestions for the Committee's consideration that may further strengthen Queensland's domestic and family violence death review framework.

1. Critical Elements of a Domestic and Family Violence Death Review

Domestic and family violence deaths are rarely unpredictable events. Evidence from fatality review processes around the world consistently demonstrates that these deaths frequently involve multiple warning signs and missed opportunities for intervention.

Under Part 4A of the Coroners Act (2003), the purpose of the QDFVDRAB is to review deaths related to domestic and family violence to prevent or reduce the likelihood of those deaths¹.

For death review mechanisms to fulfil this preventive purpose, they should be supported by:

- Timely review of cases.
- Expert leadership with significant knowledge of domestic and family violence.
- Multi-agency participation.
- Diverse expertise and perspectives, including those of the victim's family and community.
- The capacity to translate findings into improvements across policy, systems, processes and practice.

Where these elements are present, death review processes become powerful mechanisms for systemic learning, accountability and prevention.

Families and communities often hold critical information about a victim's circumstances, patterns of coercive control, warning signs and prior interactions with services that may not be captured in official records. Their participation can therefore enrich the evidence base available to review bodies and strengthen the system learning that follows a domestic violence related death.

Internationally, many domestic violence fatality review processes, including those in the United Kingdom, the United States and parts of Canada, incorporate structured engagement with families and communities as part of their review methodologies. These approaches recognise that meaningful prevention learning often requires insights that extend beyond formal agency records.

Recommendation 1:

Consider amendments to the domestic and family violence death review framework to enable and support family participation in the review process, including through access to dedicated support from a specialist domestic and family violence victim support service.

2. QDFVDRAB Chairperson Eligibility

The Red Rose Foundation welcomes the proposed amendment to widen eligibility for the QDFVDRAB chairperson role to allow an appropriately qualified coroner to be appointed as Chairperson. Expanding eligibility will help ensure the Board benefits from leadership with relevant investigative experience, judicial independence and familiarity with coronial processes, which underpin many domestic and family violence death reviews, and will provide a wider candidate pool from which to draw the level of knowledge and expertise in domestic and family violence.

¹ <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/current/act-2003-013>

However, we suggest that consideration could be given to widening eligibility further to include other suitably qualified judicial officers. Broadening eligibility in this way could:

- further increase the available pool of candidates with legal and investigative expertise.
- strengthen the independence and credibility of the Board.
- support continuity and flexibility in appointments.
- ensure leadership is drawn from individuals experienced in complex evidentiary and systemic review processes.

Given the importance of domestic and family violence death reviews in identifying lessons that may prevent future fatalities, ensuring the widest possible pool of suitably qualified leadership would further strengthen the effectiveness of the Board.

Recommendation 2:

Consider expanding eligibility for the Chairperson of the QDFVDRAB to include other suitably qualified judicial officers, in addition to appropriately qualified coroners, to ensure the Board can draw from the widest possible pool of leaders with the investigative, judicial and systemic expertise necessary to support effective domestic and family violence death review and prevention learning.

3. QDFVDRAB Board Membership and Expertise

The Red Rose Foundation would support measures to strengthen the membership framework of the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board.

Domestic and family violence deaths occur within a complex system involving multiple agencies and services including police, health services, courts, child protection, housing providers and specialist domestic and family violence services. Effective death review bodies internationally draw upon diverse multidisciplinary expertise, including experiences of family, friends and the community to cast a wide net for lessons to be accurately identified and translated into improvements across all areas and opportunities to prevent the fatality.

For this reason, the Red Rose Foundation encourages consideration of broader representation within Board membership, including:

- specialist domestic and family violence practitioners – *we note the recent appointment of the CEO of Domestic Violence Prevention Centre to the Board.*
- First Nations representatives
- Representatives from 1-2 families bereaved by fatal domestic violence – *these would be families with lived experience of domestic violence related deaths but not families relating to the cases being reviewed by the Board. A separate recommendation in the submission relates to supporting families to input into the review process itself.*

In addition, there is significant value in ensuring that the Board is informed by organisations with specific expertise in domestic violence death review processes and fatality prevention.

The Red Rose Foundation has, for more than a decade, contributed to national and international discussions on domestic violence death reviews, fatality prevention and systemic learning following domestic violence related deaths. Our organisation was closely involved in early advocacy for the establishment of Queensland's death review process and continues to work with families, practitioners, researchers and policymakers to strengthen responses to domestic violence fatalities across the country and internationally.

Ensuring that the Board benefits from robust and widened specialisms will strengthen its capacity to identify meaningful lessons and support improvements across Queensland's domestic and family violence response systems.

Recommendation 3:

Consider strengthening the membership framework of the QDFVDRAB by expanding representation to include specialist domestic and family violence practitioners, First Nations representatives, individuals with lived experience of domestic violence related deaths, and organisations with expertise in domestic violence fatality review and prevention. Broader multidisciplinary representation would enhance the Board's ability to identify systemic lessons and strengthen prevention responses across Queensland.

4. Critical Importance of Timely and Expert-Led Reviews

Given that the primary objective of domestic violence death review processes is learning and prevention, which in turn improves responses to victim-survivors through strengthened domestic and family violence systems, it is essential that reviews are conducted in a timely manner and led by individuals with appropriate expertise.

Timely, expert-led reviews ensure that:

- lessons are identified quickly
- agencies can apply learning before similar circumstances arise again
- good practice and effective responses can be acknowledged and replicated
- emerging patterns of risk are recognised earlier

Ensuring that reviews are both swift and thorough strengthens the preventive purpose of the system and enhances opportunities for lessons learned to improve responses across Queensland.

Recommendation 4:

Consider mechanisms to support the timely completion of domestic and family violence death reviews and the early sharing of prevention learnings, including approaches that enable expert-led multi-agency analysis at an earlier stage in the review process.

Summary

The Red Rose Foundation supports the intent of the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 to strengthen governance arrangements for the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board.

We particularly welcome:

- the proposal to expand eligibility for the Chairperson role to appropriately qualified coroners, and
- measures aimed at strengthening the membership framework of the Board.

However, the Red Rose Foundation encourages the Committee to consider the four recommendations above and would welcome the opportunity to provide further information to assist the Committee in its consideration of the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026.

With thanks for this opportunity.

Yours sincerely,



Lucy Lord
Chief Executive Officer

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