



BUILDING INDEPENDENCE & PARTICIPATION



Submission No. 009

To: Transportation and Utilities Committee (TUC) Queensland Parliament

Dear Committee Members,

We are writing to pledge R4Respect's wholehearted support for the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) (Offensive Advertising) Amendment Bill 2016 that enables the State Government to act decisively in de-registering vehicles that display offensive advertising.

We are a unique Logan-based education program led by young people (aged 16-24) to support other young people to develop the values, knowledge and skills they need for respectful relationships. Our aim is to prevent anti-social behaviour at a young age, which can feed the cycle of domestic and family violence.

Our program has been developed from the Victorian Department of Education's *Respectful Relationships* curriculum and activities developed by *The Line*, Our Watch's primary prevention behaviour change campaign for young people aged 12 to 20 years.

We work using evidence from the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children and Queensland's ground-breaking *Not Now, Not Ever* report that shows disrespect and sexual objectification of women and girls is a major contributing factor to the persistent sexual and physical violence towards women and girls perpetrated by men.¹

Such evidence has had a particular impact on young people. A survey conducted by Our Watch taken by 3000 young people in 2015 indicated that one in six 12-24 year olds believes 'women should know their place', and one in three believes 'exerting control over someone is not a form of violence'. More than a quarter of those young people also believed 'male verbal harassment' and 'pressure for sex toward females' are 'normal' practices.²



¹ National Plan, 2010; Queensland Special Task Force on Domestic and Family Violence, 2015

² *New research shows need to challenge violence supportive attitudes among youth*, Our Watch, 8 May 2015



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A large part of our high schools program activities, therefore, has focussed on challenging disrespectful, sexist and violence attitudes towards women and girls by young men. We also challenge attitudes that are found online and through industry advertisement, which includes some of the abhorrent slogans featured on Wicked Camper vans.

As young people, who work face to face with other young people, we have been able to reach out and challenge anti-social behaviour among our peers. We have also witnessed positive behaviour change among other young people, which we feel has made significant progress in breaking the cycle of domestic and family violence. In fact, we are proud that in just one year, R4Respect has already reached out to over 3,500 secondary students in Logan and beyond.

As young people, we also believe it is important to stand up to sexist and violence behaviours that are contributing to the scourge of this terrible violence that has claimed so many lives in our communities.

R4Respect strongly commends the disrespectful and reprehensible slogans that have featured on Wicked Camper vans.

We strongly support punishing these operators by cancelling their vehicle registration, as it sends a clear message to the community, and other young people, that violent and sexist attitudes towards women and girls will not be tolerated.

We urge members of Transportation and Utilities Committee to consider our submission as the voice of young people who want to stop domestic and family violence in our community, and to adopt our message of support for this Bill.

Kind regards (on behalf of the R4Respect team)

Grace Williams

Youth Co-ordinator R4Respect

22 November 2016