



Speech by
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MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH

Mr FENLON (Greenslopes—ALP) (10.41 pm): The message for domestic and family violence is: see the signs, be the solution. Each May, Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month seeks to provide members of Queensland communities with an increased awareness of the social and personal impacts of domestic and family violence. For 2007, the main focus of the month was to encourage people who use abuse and/or violence to take responsibility for their abusive behaviour and seek support to change.

As part of this month, WWILD—SVP Association Inc, which stands for Women Working Alongside Women with Intellectual and Learning Disabilities—Sexual Violence Prevention, held a Together We Can Stop the Violence breakfast here at Parliament House on 16 May.

The theme, Together We Can Stop the Violence, is about everyone—men and women—working together to end domestic violence. The breakfast raised much-needed awareness for the association's cause, with 90 guests. It was an opportunity to say thank you to all those who work beside WWILD in preventing this horrific form of violence against people with learning and intellectual disabilities. It was my pleasure to host the breakfast and to represent the Minister for Communities, the Hon. Warren Pitt. Journalist David Margan and Senator Andrew Bartlett spoke about this cause and made great contributions.

The event was a great opportunity for a cross-section of government and non-government organisations to stand together and show their support against domestic and sexual violence. Moneys raised will go to continuing education and support for the association's client group. Funded by Queensland Health and the Department of Communities, WWILD-SVP's vision is innovative practice, safety in communities and valuing individuals. Their mission is that their association works to achieve social justice and systemic change that upholds the rights of people with intellectual and learning disabilities to live free from violence—a noble cause.

The main programs are WILD and VOC. WWILD's two programs are run by 3½ workers, yet this association is able to do this amazing work on very limited resources. The influence it has achieved on domestic and family violence in the community is extraordinary. I commend WWILD for its outstanding efforts and encourage all of us to follow the association's example. It is, step by step, creating a better community for all of us by actively helping to prevent violence and creating safe homes and families. By raising the awareness of the issues for people with disabilities who experience this domestic and sexual violence, I believe we will contribute to a safer community for all.