



Speech by

Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Hansard Thursday, 28 October 2010

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (10.44 pm): October is Sexual Violence Awareness Month. The teal ribbon that I am wearing is the symbol for the month and is intended to remind us that we must remain vigilant and we all have a role to play in preventing violence of all sorts and working towards a safer Queensland. During the past month I have attended two candle lighting remembrance ceremonies. At the first of these I was joined by the member for Albert, who was a guest speaker. We both agree that the stories shared with the participants by the brave women who have been victims of sexual violence were horrific but at the same time inspiring because of the way these women are fighting back to regain their lives with the help of the people of the Logan Centre Against Sexual Violence.

The second candle lighting remembrance ceremony was at the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence in Southport at their brand-new premises that was purpose built to provide the facilities to better help them in their support role. What they need now is certainty of funding beyond 2011 to ensure that their important work can continue. I was joined at that event by the member for Gaven. Once again, the stories that the brave victims of sexual violence shared with us were both horrific but inspiring and a testament to the valuable work that the support staff at the centre do.

Members may remember the *Right to choose* report that was launched in this place just a few weeks ago. Many members attended the launch of that report, which was held in the Undumbi Room. The report proposes an evidence based, holistic response to sexual assault in Queensland. It advocates a system designed to enable Queensland to move towards the reduction and ultimate elimination of sexual violence. It also proposes a service delivery system designed to better address the diverse needs of the Queensland community. I know that the 20 sexual assault services that contributed to the development of that report urge the minister to read the document, to take on board the initiatives that it contains and to respond to them with a view to producing better outcomes for sexual assault victims in Queensland.

Another worthwhile and, may I suggest, linked organisation is CEO Challenge. Recently I attended the AGM of CEO Challenge and was pleased to witness the recruitment of two new corporate sponsors who have taken up the challenge to support a local domestic violence refuge. That takes the total of corporate sponsors that are supporting domestic violence refuges around Queensland to 16. The two new sponsors are GHD, a project management firm, and Australia Post. They join the likes of the Brisbane City Council, the Gold Coast City Council, Minter Ellison, Clayton Utz and others. Members may remember CEO Challenge being our guest here to commemorate White Ribbon Day in November last year. At that time members took the oath: 'I swear not to commit, excuse or be silent about violence against women.' Should members receive an invitation this year to attend a White Ribbon Day event, I urge them to take the time to attend.

In closing, members, we should all carry these statistics with us as a reminder: one in three women experience domestic violence in their relationship; domestic violence is the major cause of death for women aged between 15 and 44.

(Time expired)