




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszcuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 22 May 2014

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.31 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, the Evidence Act 1977, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 and the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 [\[5175\]](#).

Tabled paper: Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes [\[5176\]](#).

This bill sends a clear message both to perpetrators and the wider community that domestic and family violence is not acceptable. People who attack their spouses and partners will face increased punishments. It will send a message that those relationships come with a special duty.

The bill achieves three main objectives. It changes the sentencing guidelines to provide that where offences involve domestic or family violence this is considered an aggravating factor at sentencing. It also increases the penalties for offenders who breach domestic violence orders. Finally, it will ensure victims of domestic violence can get better support through the victims of crime assistance scheme.

May is Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month. By introducing this bill, the Labor opposition affirms an historic commitment to see domestic and family violence treated as among the most serious of offences as well as it being a longstanding commitment to reducing these crimes. As a community, domestic violence is one of the most widespread and insidious crimes we face. Let us be clear: this is an issue for men and women, and the impact it has on children and the wider family members. It is an issue that can permeate through entire families, often engulfing generation after generation.

Domestic violence can have long-term psychological and emotional trauma. Some children who witness this horror never recover. Domestic violence does not discriminate by class, wealth, race, age or sexual preference, and we must acknowledge the extent of this problem. The sad fact is that every week in this country a woman is killed by a partner. While these tragedies are occurring each week, the ABS says the rate of victims reporting is less than 20 per cent. The horrific rate of this crime is estimated to cost our economy \$14.6 billion per year. As a community, each and every one of us must accept responsibility to support families in crisis, provide assistance for offenders and victims, and take a stand against violence.

Last month the opposition revealed that police applications for domestic violence increased by 9.5 per cent last year. At the same time breaches of domestic violence orders increased by 11 per cent. This was at the same time the LNP cut funding across the domestic violence sector, and further

cuts have been announced by the Abbott government. The Labor Party will continue to build on its previous reforms and will go to the next election with policies to reduce domestic violence and improve people's lives by making additional counselling available for women and children and courses for perpetrators. Women, men, children and families in Queensland should no longer live under the black cloud of fear and violence in their homes.

First Reading

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.33 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.