




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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ADJOURNMENT

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.15 pm): The glaring spotlight that has been placed on domestic and family violence over the past 12 months is long overdue and very necessary. It has generated so much government and community discussion and action on the matter—discussion and action that needed to occur. I recently met with Rob Clark from Maleny, who wants us to consider tackling domestic and family violence in a slightly different way. This evening I would like to read into *Hansard* a speech provided by Rob. It states—

We ask that your attention be drawn to the Say Yes to Family Peace Initiative born through the Maleny Men's Forum during DV awareness week earlier this year. Four of our men walked at the head of the local march. They carried a banner clearly stating men's call for "Respect and Peace in our Homes".

This is indicative of what really matters to the majority of men. That our partners and children are provided for, happy and feeling safe. These are the men who do all they can to create peace in their families. They, the majority, seem to be forgotten in the midst of this tragedy.

We also acknowledge that there are some men who go right off the rails and we express sorrow for them and the harm they bring. Say No to DV and Not Now, Not Ever are important messages here and we recognize their importance.

However, we ask whether this constant barrage of negativity directed at men in general is helpful to encouraging healthy men and boys? Is it any wonder some men and boys act out in destructive ways when all they see of manhood is unhealthy and demeaning?

There is a need to change the way men see themselves, to change the way society sees men and to actively encourage men to be the best they can be.

This is where Government and Non Government Organisations like Men's Wellbeing, Powerhouse Programs, Mankind Project and Pathways play a pivotal role in working with men and boys, to catch them before they lose it. To break the cycle of violence or even prevent it from occurring in the first place. Good work is being done on the solutions to violence.

There are a good number of men who will reach out for help when it is all getting too much for them but only if that help is visible and accessible. What can we do to meet these men before their issues escalate?

Say Yes calls on the government to place more recognition and importance on changing the perceptions of men, to focus more on the solutions and to make them more visible and accessible. We call on the government to give more support to these individuals, organizations and programs that have proven themselves to work in supporting men and boys with the tools that build healthy young men and heal broken older men.

Clearly what we have been doing is not working, the stats prove this beyond doubt.

Funds and efforts allocated to dealing with the damage are important, we know this, but we call on you to match these funds at least dollar for dollar by investing in the preventative programs that are well proven to work on the solutions.

We put it to you that this is the shift this Government says it is looking for and willing to make.

This is the way we can say a big pro-active Yes to Family Peace and mean it.