



Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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**DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND ANOTHER ACT
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (8.48 pm): Tonight I rise to proudly support the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Another Act Amendment Bill. Earlier this year the Palaszczuk Labor government was presented with the comprehensive *Not now, not ever* report from the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence. That report was the result of extensive consultation, including with almost 370 different groups of victims, service providers and community leaders. Our government has committed to implementing all 140 recommendations proposed. Tonight we debate a bill to enhance the level of protection in place for victims of domestic and family violence and I am very pleased to support it.

This bill is designed to ensure that our courts protect those most in need of protection. It acknowledges the distress experienced by domestic violence victims who live in the same homes as their abusers and acts to empower the courts to consider imposing conditions to exclude the perpetrators from those living spaces. Often domestic violence victims feel that their voices are falling on deaf ears and that they are somewhat lost in the system of the courts. This bill moves, in part, to rectify this by recognising the importance of domestic violence victims being able to express their views and wishes in relation to decisions under the act.

Each of us, not only in our private lives but also in our public lives, must act within our own areas of power and influence to implement what we can do to stop domestic and family violence. I take this opportunity to put on the parliamentary record some of the work that is underway within my own portfolio. One of the recommendations proposed in the report of the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence is for our government to work with the health sector to ensure more widespread best practice amongst GPs and midwives when dealing with domestic and family violence. Queensland Health is leading the development of tools and training for all health professionals statewide, both public and private. They are also developing a specialist support and referral model for all maternity and emergency departments. We are already screening the women who attend public antenatal clinics through a number of questions about domestic and family violence and offering them support and referrals when a situation is identified. Currently, Queensland Health is undertaking an evaluation of our antenatal screening for violence.

In April this year, I took 15 recommendations from the *Not now, not ever* report to the COAG health ministers' council. At my request, the COAG health ministers' council meeting in November was provided with an update on the implementation of the *Not now, not ever* recommendations.

Several weeks ago, I was proud to stand with my colleagues the state members for Waterford and Algester and members of the Woodridge electorate and the Logan community to join in a walk against domestic violence and to take the Logan pledge to put a stop to violence against women and families. The walk and the pledge both represent what we know: while we are doing what we can, it cannot be up to the government alone to tackle this issue. Together we must refuse to turn a blind eye to violence and say with a united voice that enough is enough.