




Speech By
Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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ADJOURNMENT

Gladstone Electorate, Domestic and Family Violence; Sexual Assault Awareness Month

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (11.35 pm): I rise to speak about the great commitment that the people of my electorate of Gladstone have made to say, 'Not now, not ever, not in our town,' to domestic and family violence. Domestic and family violence is a violation of the basic rights that we all have to feel happy, healthy, supported and safe in our lives.

It is clear that immediate action is required to eliminate this form of violence from our society and I am proud to say that my community has taken a stand. The Not in Our Town initiative was launched earlier this month at the 2015 Safer Families, Better Communities rally, which was jointly hosted by the Gladstone Regional Council and the Gladstone Women's Health Centre. The Not in Our Town campaign is built on an understanding that Gladstone is our town, our community, that these are our families and our friends and that each of us have a job to do in bringing conversations about domestic and family violence out into the open.

Bringing the conversation out into the open was also the focus of a domestic and family violence community leaders round table that I hosted in Gladstone last week. That event was a great success, with 45 leaders from both government and non-government sectors coming together to share their stories from the front line of support services in Gladstone and surrounding areas. Some of the key recommendations that came from this round table included the need for better collaboration and coordination of the support services that already exist in Gladstone; education on healthy relationships and healthy conflicts starting in primary schools; and the better utilisation of ouster orders, requiring a perpetrator to leave the home rather than, in most cases, the women and children relocating to the women's refuges in Gladstone.

I will be working hard over the coming months to put these recommendations that we came up with into action in my electorate. Domestic and family violence is one of the most devastating issues facing Queensland, but if we do not talk about it nothing will change. The community of Gladstone has rallied together and said loud and clear, 'Not in our town.'

While I am on my feet, I would also like to mention an upcoming event in my electorate, She Runs the Night in Gladstone, to raise awareness of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This year, the Gladstone Women's Health Centre is holding this event, starting at the East Shores precinct and finishing at the marina parklands, with a candlelight vigil at the end, which I will be attending.

Gladstone Women's Health Centre is doing fantastic work in Gladstone, particularly in the field of domestic and family violence in our community. I stand by them in their cause to wipe out domestic violence in my community of Gladstone.