



Speech By  
**Jennifer Howard**


**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Domestic and Family Violence**

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (12.28 am): I rise to speak about the response of the Ipswich community to the *Not now, not ever* Bryce report into domestic and family violence. Given the horrific events of recent weeks, I am especially proud to serve in a government that does not sweep domestic and family violence under the carpet; a government that is not afraid to stand up for the women and children of Queensland who are suffering daily at the hands of perpetrators.

The sobering facts are these: last year 29 homicides relating to domestic and family violence occurred in Queensland. Already this year 62 women have died at the hands of a family member. The estimated annual cost of domestic and family violence to the Queensland economy is over \$3 billion. One in four Australian women has experienced emotional abuse at the hands of a current or former partner.

Ipswich, like every other community in the state, is not immune from this reality. That is why it gave me so much pleasure to open the Ipswich Domestic and Family Violence Collaborative Forum earlier this month. As the forum champion, it was heartening to see over 130 people come together at the Ipswich showgrounds. There were representatives from Ipswich's community organisations, Indigenous groups, police, local and state government. These are the decision-makers and the people of action in our community. It was fantastic to see them all working together to find a path to the forum's vision: a Queensland free from domestic and family violence. I thank them for giving their time to take part in this valuable conversation.

I also give special thanks to those who put so much time and effort into making the Ipswich Domestic and Family Violence Collaborative Forum a reality. In particular, the passion for this project and hard work of Brooke Winters and Anne-Maree Carey from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services in Ipswich was essential to making the forum a success.

This forum followed on from the Ipswich community leaders round table in June, led by the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. I thank the minister for her initiative in promoting these round tables on domestic and family violence across Queensland. It was inspiring to hear the minister urge the Ipswich community to continue to bring the issue of domestic violence out from behind closed doors.

It was with great pride that I told the Ipswich Domestic and Family Violence Forum that the Palaszczuk government will implement all 140 recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report. This is a government that takes the challenge of domestic and family violence seriously and is working to address it.

Once again, I give my sincere thanks to everyone who took part in the Ipswich Domestic and Family Violence Collaborative Forum and the community leaders' round table that proceeded it. The outcome of this good work from our government and from the decision-makers in the Ipswich community will be a strong local action plan for Ipswich. It is our responsibility to lead, but it is everybody's responsibility to prevent domestic and family violence and to build a community that does not support or condone violence. It is by working together that we can aim to achieve the vision of a Queensland free of domestic and family violence.