




Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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**CRIMINAL LAW (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE) AMENDMENT BILL; CORONERS  
(DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW AND ADVISORY  
BOARD) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.42 pm): I rise to speak in support of these two bills. I am sure I will be joined by all in this House in support of these bills. I would like to start by acknowledging the student leaders from my electorate who are here today. I am sure they will play an important part in the changes we need to achieve over the coming years.

We recently witnessed some truly tragic and shocking public acts of domestic violence. These public acts rightly sickened and disgusted the community. Sadly, these public events are played out every week in our community, away from the glare of the media spotlight and the community outrage that the media exposure triggers. However, there is a deep and sincere desire right across our community and the political spectrum to bring these issues to light and to do what is necessary to put an end to domestic violence.

Responding to a challenge from Premier Palaszczuk to show leadership on this issue in our community, I worked together with the Women's Legal Service and federal member for Griffith, Terri Butler, to hold a rally in support of survivors and victims of domestic violence in the electorate of Greenslopes. The rally drew over 150 local residents and representatives of many community groups including Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Centre, the Holland Park RSL, the Holland Park Islamic Society, Cavendish Road State High School and Mount Gravatt Community Centre.

The event demonstrated the bipartisan approach that is possible to this issue. It was good to welcome former member for Greenslopes, Mr Ian Kaye, to address the rally. I thank him for his work on the *Not now, not ever* task force. We were joined by a range of organisations like DV Connect and the SafeTCARD that took the opportunity to inform community members about what people can do if they are involved in a violent relationship or know somebody who is. This rally demonstrated that our community is willing to work together to end domestic and family violence.

Like many people in the community, I have been aware of domestic violence as a concept, but I have led a life that is free of this type of violence. As a nurse I have seen many sad things. Perhaps one of the saddest things that I have had to deal with are families and people who supposedly love each other doing each other great damage.

While inviting people to attend the rally I was actually quite shocked at how many people shared with me that they had personally suffered as a result of domestic and family violence. We have heard many tales and stories in the last little while from various people in this House about their own personal experiences with domestic violence. I particularly want to thank the member for Pumicestone for sharing the very tragic events that he shared with us last night.

I want to acknowledge the work of the *Not now, not ever* task force led by Quentin Bryce. The report laid out a plan for moving towards eliminating violence. I congratulate Premier Palaszczuk,

Minister D'Ath and Minister Fentiman for their action on this plan thus far. I certainly acknowledge the fact that they intend to implement all recommendations.

Raising community awareness and educating people about what they can do about domestic violence is fundamentally important, but the report outlined 140 recommendations. That is why I am supporting these two bills. They are driven by recommendations from this extensive report.

The establishment of an independent body to systematically review all domestic and family violence related deaths will yield valuable information—information that will allow for the improvement in systems, practices and procedures. As a nurse I have seen firsthand how careful analysis of tragic situations can assist greatly in avoiding a repeat of that situation.

I certainly support the increase in penalties for breaching domestic violence orders. It sends a strong signal to the offenders and the community that breaching an order is a very serious matter. Noting domestic and family violence convictions on an offender's criminal history will allow judicial officers to be aware of patterns of escalating offending and appropriately sentence them. It will also assist judicial officers to facilitate the victim obtaining assistance.

I note that the bill also provides further protection for victims of domestic violence when they are acting as witnesses by giving them protections as special witnesses under the Evidence Act 1977, something I very much support. The documenting of escalating patterns of behaviour also provides the opportunity for perpetrators of domestic violence to take responsibility for their actions and seek help before it is too late.

While discussing this issue with people in my electorate there were many different reactions. Many have expressed their sympathy and solidarity with survivors and victims of domestic violence. Many have a strong desire that anyone in a violent relationship seeks help before tragedy strikes. Some feel an utter sense of hopelessness and lament that anything can ever change.

On many issues in this place we have very differing views on what should change, but we are all united in our belief that society can change. When I speak to these people who lack hope, I encourage them to think about what has happened in relation to sexual harassment in the workplace. Sexual harassment, once common and ignored, is now unacceptable, both socially and legally. While it still occurs, it is more rare. As a society we can and we must once again stand together to say not now, not ever to domestic violence. I fully support these bills.