




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (8.34 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Another Act Amendment Bill 2015. I support the objectives of the bill. In previous debates on other bills relating to domestic and family violence—and again tonight—we have heard harrowing accounts from members of this House about how domestic and family violence has impacted upon them and their families. I would like to thank those members who chose to share their personal experiences, particularly my parliamentary and professional colleague the member for Mudgeeraba. These deeply personal experiences that have been shared demonstrate that domestic and family violence affects all parts of our community.

Just as it is a problem that affects all parts of our community, it is a problem that we can and will solve by continuing to work together as a community. Recently, I held a domestic violence round table in my electorate for community leaders. School principals, guidance officers, community workers, women's services organisations staff, police, journalists, academics and representatives from local P&Cs gathered to discuss what we can do to lead people in our community to stand up to say, 'Not now, not ever to domestic violence.' There was a recognition that the whole community needs to play a role in stopping domestic and family violence. The group identified some key things that needed to be done: we need to stop domestic violence from occurring in the first place, we need to hold offenders accountable for their actions and offer them rehabilitation, but mostly we need to support those affected by domestic violence and afford them the opportunity for justice. I support this bill, because it supports victims and will play a key role in affording them justice. The bill reflects the Palaszczuk government's commitment to implementing the *Not now, not ever* report in full. This bill gives life to recommendations 129, 99, 117 and 131 of the report.

The community leaders who gathered in my electorate acknowledged that security of accommodation is an essential element of supporting victims of domestic violence. This bill gives the court the option of ensuring that victims are not further traumatised by being forced from their homes as a result of domestic violence. Streamlining court processes and allowing for the use of evidence gathered by police using body worn cameras will assist greatly in obtaining justice for victims of domestic violence.

Perpetrators of domestic violence are seeking to dominate and disempower their victims. This bill will ensure that victims do not feel further disempowered by a court system that does not hear their voice. This bill requires that the views and the wishes of the victims of domestic violence are sought before decisions are made to the extent that it is appropriate and practicable. I note that there were some concerns raised around this provision by some stakeholders, and I thank the minister and the department for working through those issues with the stakeholders to maintain this provision of the bill.

I would like to make a few observations about some things that have been achieved since this House and our entire community started to work together to tackle this issue. Firstly, I hear many more

people talking about domestic violence and what they can do about it. There is a growing understanding of this issue and a willingness to discuss it, identify it and act on it. Secondly, in my practice as a nurse during this year I have encountered patients who have sought help and advice about domestic violence. The education and experience that I have received on this issue since being elected has helped me to provide better support and the nurses whom I have worked with have known how to support these patients in these very difficult situations.

Finally, I have highlighted this issue in communications to the electorate through newsletters and electronic newsletters, and a number of people have contacted my office seeking advice. These things may seem small but, hopefully, they have resulted in some people getting help. I would like to thank the participants of the community leaders round table: the Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Centre, the Women's Legal Service, the Mount Gravatt Community Centre, the Holland Park police, Coorparoo Secondary College, Cavendish Road State High School, Holland Park State School, Greenslopes State School, the P&C of the Brisbane School of Distance Education and the *South-East Advertiser*. I would also like to thank Carers Queensland for the use of their venue and participation. I also thank Matthew Campbell for convening the workshop. At the round table we discussed the fact that sexual harassment in the workplace was once common. It is now rare and unacceptable both socially and legally. We all agree that, in the past, we have changed cultural behaviours and that we must join together to do it again. This bill is an important part of that process and I commend it to the House.