




Speech By  
**Leanne Linard**

**MEMBER FOR NUDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2015

**FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (4.24 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution in support of the Family Responsibilities Commission Amendment Bill 2015. The bill gives effect to recommendation 93 of the *Not now, not ever* report into domestic and family violence to require a court to notify the Family Responsibilities Commission when a protection order under the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act is made naming a welfare reform community resident as the respondent.

The introduction of a new domestic violence trigger for agency notices to the commission will assist the Family Responsibilities Commission in the early identification of domestic and family violence issues in welfare communities and ensure that the commission is well placed to take action to address such issues. I believe that the domestic violence trigger contained in the bill is important to ensure that those affected by incidents of domestic and family violence that give rise to a protection order within welfare communities have access to the benefits of conferencing. Currently, the act provides for four trigger events. Following receipt of a notification, the commission will then decide whether to request the person attend a conference in order to address the offending behaviour.

The opportunity to participate in a conference in a local language in an informal and confidential setting and to be referred to support services where required are all strengths of conferencing. Conferencing under the act is aimed at restoring socially responsible standards of behaviour and helping community members to resume primary responsibility for themselves, other community members and families. The bill provides the commission with a mechanism by which these procedures are triggered for domestic and family violence events. The bill also makes a number of additional amendments to administrative provisions relating to the commission's operations and functions to improve administrative efficiency of the act.

I note importantly that consultation occurred on the bill with the five welfare reform community areas within which the Family Responsibilities Commission operates at Aurukun, Coen, Doomadgee, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge, that public meetings were held by the department and that each of the communities were supportive of the proposals. I also note the comments of the FRC commissioner conveyed during the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee deliberations that the amendments will assist the commission to more effectively conduct its core business of restoring social responsibility and local authority to welfare reform communities. Accordingly, I commend the bill to the House.