




Speech By  
**Mark Furner**

**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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**MOTION: SPECIAL TASKFORCE ON DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE**

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (6.15 pm): I rise this evening to contribute to the private member's motion as well, and I do so with regard to my speech this morning in this chamber about the responsibilities that I feel as a father to play my role, however small, in setting an example against violence. As a White Ribbon ambassador I swore, and still do at events, never to commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women. That is my oath.

As a male community leader, I can extend my influence and speak out against violence against women and safely and effectively challenge the attributes and behaviours of a minority of men who use or condone violence against women. Most men are good men; they are not violent. There is nothing masculine about being violent or in control. It does not make you a strong man to belittle women. We have to face the stark reality that, as Quentin Bryce clearly stated in her report *Not now, not ever*—

One in six Australian women have experienced physical or sexual violence from a current or former partner, compared to one in 19 Australian men.

One in five women have experienced sexual abuse compared to one in 22 Australian men.

One in four Australian women have experienced emotional abuse from a current or former partner, compared to one in seven Australian men.

Our Queensland Governor, Paul de Jersey, is leading the way, along with sports figures and media stars, in stating very clearly to the people of Queensland—

Domestic violence is a heinous species of violent crime. These appalling offenders must be held to account. It is also critical that we stand up for victims with our comprehensive support.

I think he is right. As I mentioned this morning this matter is beyond politics. As stated by Dame Quentin Bryce—

Stories bring us together as a community—and it is the Taskforce's sincere hope that the stories that are told here will move the community forward in the journey to collectively act to put an end to domestic and family violence.

Dame Quentin Bryce could not have known that the Queensland community would be so shocked and devastated by the stories we heard last week and the murders we saw in public places, but, as the Premier and ministers have said, it can be a turning point. I am proud to be part of a government that has put domestic and family violence front and centre of our priorities. We have begun work on more than half of the recommendations aimed at government, and we are working to support non-government partners to respond to the other recommendations.

I am pleased that the opposition is today committing to bipartisan support for the full implementation of the comprehensive road map which has been handed down to us by the task force. Today we have all received a kit to help us engage with our communities on this issue. This morning I spoke about the community forum that I am hosting on 21 November in Ferry Grove. I am encouraged by the enthusiasm that is growing. The momentum is increasing day after day and people wish to

engage with that community. I do encourage all members in this chamber to bring your stakeholders and your interested community members together to commit to a community response to this crisis.

Just as we in this House need to work together on this crucial issue, we need all parts of our electorates and all parts of Queensland to work together—schools, hospitals, doctors, workplaces, sports clubs, playgrounds, churches, everyone. On the subject of sporting clubs, on Saturday morning I was lucky to be at the Samford Rangers soccer presentation and I commented on the number of young female players who are playing soccer. What a great start for collaboration and respect by male and female players playing together, creating generational change for the future. We all must work together on this. We all must commit for the long haul. There are no excuses.