




Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (7.43 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the debate on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Another Act Amendment Bill 2015 and the associated report. Over the past six or so years, I have engaged with my constituents and with those working in the domestic violence sector. In fact, I have been very aware of the prevalence of domestic violence right from the beginning of my career, but I really was not aware before that.

I received an invitation early on to a CEO Challenge breakfast down on the Gold Coast. There were about 90 people in attendance. The most telling presentation at that breakfast—the one that has stuck with me the most—was where the presenter provided those in attendance with a very graphic picture and a piece of information. In a nutshell, the presenter said that every week in Australia two women escape domestic violence. The graphic that was shown was two trolleys and there were two bodies on those two trolleys. All you could see were two sets of feet protruding from under two sheets and there was a tag attached to the left big toe of each of the bodies. It was a very blunt way of telling the audience that on average two women lose their lives to domestic violence in Australia every week—and I will never forget that graphic.

Before that morning, I had absolutely no idea. That breakfast changed my perspective and convinced me that we—those of us here and society—had to do something. As a result, and thanks to the then Speaker, John Mickel, parliament hosted White Ribbon Day for the very first time. I approached him and I asked him if he would consider doing it. It was certainly outside of my budget. He looked at the material and he was more than happy to host it. Many members in that first parliament that I was here did commit themselves to the white ribbon pledge. I am happy to say that from then on this parliament has had a close association with White Ribbon Day and the swearing of the oath. Since then, I have sworn the oath each and every year. I had already sworn the oath on a previous occasion this year, but I know that many members attended a function earlier this week where they swore the oath. In fact, they swore the new oath and it is a very simple and straightforward one—stand up, speak out.

Here we are tonight passing another bill. It is a bill that strengthens our society's commitment to changing the way we deal with domestic violence. This stems from the *Not now, not ever* report. This bill is intended to protect the person most in need of protection. It is intended to require the court to consider imposing a condition to exclude a perpetrator of domestic violence from the family home. It is intended to provide the ability for a victim of domestic violence to be able to express their views and wishes when applying for domestic violence orders. Submissions to the report indicated concerns in regard to this last area. I note that as such the report recommended that the department reconsider this area as part of a wider review.

The final aspect of this bill relates to clarifying that the use of body worn cameras by police acting in the performance of their duty is lawful. That means certainty about the evidence as well. Situations

occur. We see video footage—taken on smart phones sometimes—but often what we do not see is the precursor to the reactions by the police. The use of body worn cameras is going to provide that information. This bill is intended to ensure that the use of body worn cameras is in fact lawful. That will then provide more certainty about everything that has occurred in that particular instance.

I simply want to finish by congratulating both sides of this House. I also congratulate the committee for its work in putting its recommendations together. The task force commenced under the previous government, under the member for Aspley's watch, and I congratulate her for her determination to ensure that that commenced. It continues now under this government's watch. We have the Not now, not ever report to use as a blueprint going forward from here with something like 140 recommendations. From memory, 129 of those, when looking through the report, relate to these specific areas. Over time we will implement the report's recommendations and in a sensible manner, not rushed but properly thought through, properly considered and properly discussed with the community at large.

This bill is our next step. I commend the bill to the House and know our work is going to improve the lot of victims of domestic violence and change the thinking of the community and perpetrators.