




Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**  
**MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2015

### **FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (4.21 pm): The Family Responsibilities Commission Amendment Bill will do a few things, but I would like to speak about one important part of it, and that is the adding of a domestic violence trigger to the Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008. I note that many speakers have focused on this element, and I think it is demonstrative of how strong this particular parliament has been on the issue of domestic violence.

Violence against women is a disgrace. As a husband, as a father of two boys and a girl, and as an MP, I will use every opportunity I have to speak out against violence against women. The Palaszczuk government announced earlier this year that it will implement all 140 recommendations in Dame Quentin Bryce's landmark *Not now, not ever* report into domestic and family violence. This bill directly addresses recommendation 93 of the report by requiring a court to notify the Family Responsibilities Commission when a protection order under the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 is made that names a welfare reform community resident as the respondent.

Domestic violence affects women across Queensland. It is not localised to one area or demographic. Because it affects such a wide range of people and families, its solution cannot be one size fits all. We have a particular responsibility to our remote communities such as the Cape York welfare reform communities. Dealing with domestic violence in these areas is a significant challenge. Considerable distances between a woman's residence and support services can make it more difficult for women to find and access support. Then there is the problem of the disconnect between these services which can prevent vital information sharing and integrated case management.

The Family Responsibilities Commission works with Cape York welfare reform communities to provide essential services for local residents. This domestic violence trigger will notify the commission that a protection order has been made and assist them in coordinating vital services for the family. It is another important step in integrating our service response for domestic violence victims and making sure that families in remote and Indigenous communities have access to the care they need. I commend this bill to the House.