




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 3 December 2015

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

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (8.51 pm): Tonight it is with great pleasure that I rise to speak in favour of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Another Act Amendment Bill 2015. One of the great things about this particular bill is that it has bipartisan support. This is an incredibly serious issue and it is very encouraging to see that everybody from both sides of the House agrees that this bill needs to be passed. I am proud to be part of the previous government that commissioned the original Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence. I congratulate former premier Campbell Newman, who personally had the foresight to initiate the task force and to select somebody as reputable and capable as Dame Quentin Bryce to head it. I commend the current government for continuing with the reforms that were recommended. As I said, it is great to see that there is bipartisan support on this issue.

Violence against anybody is unacceptable. Violence against women, particularly when it is perpetrated by men, is even more abhorrent. I cannot speak strongly enough about how I feel on this particular issue. It is very important that men themselves speak out about this abhorrent behaviour. I have a strong background in the sporting world, which is obviously very male dominated. Recently when the shadow minister and member for Aspley and I attended the Premier's White Ribbon breakfast, I was very encouraged to see somebody such as Darren Lockyer working as an ambassador and spokesperson against domestic violence. Having people such as Darren and other men in male dominated sectors—sport, business or whatever it might be—speak out is one of the ways that we can stop this scourge from taking place.

Over the past few months, the publicity about domestic violence has motivated me to apply to become a White Ribbon ambassador, which is quite an impressive process. To become a White Ribbon ambassador, you need to go through an online course, which takes quite a few hours. It requires you to sit down, think and learn about the issues. I must say, I have been very encouraged by that. I have done that part and I have passed, which is encouraging. The next part of the process is an interview, which I think is incredibly important. This is not something that you just ask for and get; you need to go through a process so that you fully understand the sometimes quite complex issues involved with domestic violence. I am looking forward to my interview, which will be held next week, so that hopefully I can become a fully-fledged White Ribbon ambassador.

On 25 November, White Ribbon Day, I was very proud to be the co-host of the inaugural walk for resilience in my community. I co-hosted that with a group called The Nest, which is located in my community. I think the minister may have recently met with Roz from The Nest. The Nest is an incredibly innovative and creative venture that I am really excited about and I know the minister is as well. Roz is incredibly passionate. I will do the organisation a disservice if I do not read straight from their vision statement, which states—

We support the wellbeing of women and children by creating public homes, gardens and studio spaces to build resilient and connected communities. Our philosophy is community regeneration through social enterprise initiatives and leveraging

stakeholders to channel collective action through handmade living. We believe our philosophy will provide a pathway to develop social resilience to address the issues that women face with regard to domestic violence, social isolation and mental health issues.

Roz is passionate about this. She has 60 or 70 volunteers. They have a great heritage house on South Pine Road that has great visibility. They are struggling to stay open. They require funding. As I mentioned, I know they met with the minister and I really do hope that the minister sees the potential for their great work, as I do. This is just another part of the puzzle of trying to help women connect, to feel supported and to feel like they can play their role in this as well. Roz was telling me that one of the great things about this community is that many of the women who come to The Nest are victims of domestic violence themselves, but they really want to make a contribution. They really want to come in and help others, which is very inspiring.

I was incredibly encouraged by our inaugural walk. We did it at relatively short notice. I reckon we had around about 150 people attend. The local Everton State Park High School students led off the walk and representatives from Mt Maria College were there as well. It was really encouraging that representatives from the local football clubs attended. Roger McIntosh from the Mitchelton Football Club and David Campbell from the West Mitchie rugby league football club were there. The West Mitchie club has a great history and was home to players such as Fatty Vautin and John Rebo. Those guys realise that they have to make a statement as well, and they came out to represent their clubs. The Bunya Lions Club was represented and Norm Wyndham, Andrew Wines from the Brisbane City Council and Mike Charlton from the Moreton Bay Regional Council were also there. It was great. It was really good to do that walk. We walked from Teralba Park at Mitchie to The Nest, which is only about 800 metres. We had a barbecue and listened to a bit of music, and there was an expo of what happens at The Nest. It was really encouraging. Of course, we had a moment of silence to remember those women, in particular, who are the victims of domestic violence and have suffered greatly through it and, of course, the many who unfortunately have lost their lives.

This bill increases protections for victims of domestic and family violence. Therefore, it has my full support and, I am sure, that of my parliamentary colleagues as well.