




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2015

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.03 am): The Queensland government is committed to realising the vision of a community free from domestic and family violence. This government has instigated a comprehensive response to the *Not now, not ever* report and has already acted swiftly on many recommendations, including the important Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015 and the death review and advisory board amendment bill 2015, which will be debated in this House this week.

In addition to progressing these reforms, the government has fast-tracked a number of key reforms following the very recent public and horrific domestic violence incidents including the murders of two women in separate incidents in South-East Queensland alone. There is more work to be done. Recommendations 118 and 120 of the special task force also relate to criminal law reform. These recommendations provide for the introduction of a circumstance of aggravation of domestic and family violence to be applied to all criminal offences so as to increase the maximum penalty for the offence and for the consideration of the creation of a specific offence of strangulation. The Queensland government committed to consult stakeholders on recommendations 118 and 120 and the best way to achieve the objectives underpinning them.

To facilitate this consultation, I can advise that this week a discussion paper has been released by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, and it can be found at www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au. It has also been circulated to over a hundred stakeholders. This discussion paper sets out the background of each of the two elements to be considered and provides a number of possible approaches to implementing the recommendations. Thirteen questions are posed to encourage engagement and to prompt useful and constructive debate.

I would encourage all interested members and the Queensland community to review the discussion paper and provide feedback. Together the Queensland community and the government must insist on respectful relationships, together we must refuse to turn a blind eye to violence and together we must say enough is enough.