




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2016

**DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (5.05 pm): I rise this afternoon to support the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I preface my comments by remarking on the contributions which have been made in the chamber this afternoon. There have been some well-measured and very personal contributions by a lot of the members here, and I am sure they touched the hearts of many of us Queensland parliamentarians when we heard those personal stories. I must commend the member for Gaven for his contribution; his recounting of his experience with domestic violence was very touching.

I have made personal contributions here before about my own daughter and how the early onset of domestic violence affected her. I think it is very important that parliamentarians speak out about this scourge in our society. I may be optimistic, but I believe that change will be generational.

In many schools in my electorate of Ferny Grove principals from primary and secondary schools are coming forward to ensure that the message filtering through the curriculum is about respect. It is so important that people have respect for one another. Regardless of who you are, what you are or where you come from, there should be respect for one another. I think that is presently lacking in our society. I am sure that over time when the youths in those schools become adults and go out into the community there will be generational change and we will see the last of domestic violence.

The bill will introduce changes to the DFVP Act to improve protection for victims and strengthen the justice response by requiring police to consider what action to take to provide victims with effective and immediate protection until a court can consider an application for a protection order and expand the protection that can be provided by police protection notices to better safeguard victims and their families. It will make sure that courts can make a DVO when a victim has been threatened or has fears for their safety or wellbeing and also expand the existing power available to police to direct a person to remain at a specified place and also to enable them to direct a person to move to, and remain at, another place to allow police to serve or explain an application, PPN or DVO or issue a PPN. This will assist police to defuse emotive domestic violence incidents.

I know that in my area, Ferny Grove, Sergeant Roger O'Malia is a strong advocate for domestic violence and I see him at many events. I will be wearing my White Ribbon ambassador hat this Friday at the Ferny Grove State High School to conduct a candlelight vigil, and I hope to see him there. I know that some senior police and many community leaders are coming to the six o'clock vigil this Friday night at the high school. I heard from a number of other speakers who are doing similar things, whether it be conducting vigils or holding special days to ensure that their communities are well informed about this particular issue. It is so important that we keep that message out there.

On that note, I want to encourage the chamber to recognise the work that the minister and the committee have put in to bring this bill forward. If we can break the nexus of domestic violence in our electorates it would be a significant achievement. As we go out into our communities, it is important to spread the message that this government is on track to see the demise of domestic violence.

The bill enables police to protect an expanded range of people—a victim’s children, relatives and associates as well as the victim—and contains additional conditions to provide more tailored protection, including removing a perpetrator from the family home, prohibiting them from contacting the victim or their children, and preventing them from possessing weapons.

It is women who predominantly come into my office and tell me stories about perpetrators who commit domestic violence, and we naturally automatically involve the police at the Ferny Grove Police Station to assist in resolving those matters. The measures perpetrators are using amaze me. They are using new forms of technology to spy and no doubt commit offences through other means. It alarms me that, with advances in and new forms of technology—drones and so on—perpetrators are starting to use technology to offend against their victims. This is not necessarily an area of involvement for the state; it is something the federal government needs to be conscious of.

Last week I had the pleasure of attending the Women’s Correctional Centre at Wacol. There I heard alarming statistics about the significant numbers of women in that centre who had become prisoners as a result of being perpetrated against and being victims in their families. No doubt that starts that vicious cycle of masking the effects of what they have had to live with through their childhood or their early teenage years by going down the path of taking drugs. Unfortunately, involvement in drugs leads to criminality in order to feed the drug habit. We need to be mindful of what these women are being affected by out in the community. It is my pleasure to speak this afternoon on this important bill, which will address a lot of issues in our community.