




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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CRIMINAL LAW (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.37 pm): I rise to speak on the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2015. It is a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Code, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 and the Youth Justice Act 2002 for particular purposes. In rising, I am confirming my support for this further bill intended to tighten the laws around domestic violence.

We have been on this road since 2014 when the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence was created. This resulted in the release of the *Not now, not ever* report. This bill is designed to increase perpetrator accountability in two main areas: introduce a circumstance of aggravation of domestic and family violence to be applied to all criminal offences; and consider the creation of a specific offence of strangulation, which includes choking and suffocation.

I note that the committee's unanimous recommendation was that the bill be passed. I congratulate the committee, the Attorney, everyone in this House, and anyone and everyone who has been involved in the steps taken on this and previous bills relating to domestic violence. I applaud the efforts of the House going forward from here to finish the job.

We have a long way to go. Legislation alone is not going to purge society of this abhorrent activity. It is up to society as a whole—no more turning a blind eye; no more turning our backs on those who are victims as though it were they who were committing the crime; and certainly no more accepting the excuses of perpetrators. It is just not on. It is up to us here to legislate. It is up to our police officers and judiciary to follow through with prosecutions. It is up to society to drive the changes home and to teach our children, our youth, that domestic violence is not normal behaviour.

I commend this very important bill to the House and look forward to further actions by this House over the coming months and years to stamp out this despicable crime in society.