




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.54 pm): I rise in support of the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2015. We have made a commitment to the people of Queensland to put an end to domestic and family violence. We have highlighted the perverse and destructive nature of domestic and family violence in this place and throughout our communities many times. We need strong action and leadership on this issue, and I am proud to be part of a government that is leading the way.

This bill will hold perpetrators to account. This is done through implementing recommendation 118 of the *Not now, not ever* task force report, including recording the offence on the perpetrator's criminal record. All of the evidence indicates that the act of strangulation is a key predictor of increased violence and domestic homicide, so it is imperative that the gaps in the Criminal Code around section 315 are closed. Recommendation 120 of the task force report is implemented with this bill creating the specific offence of strangulation, choking or suffocation. This will carry a maximum penalty of seven years imprisonment. Evidence indicates that once a perpetrator engages in strangulation, they are 800 times more at risk of causing serious injury or indeed death. In the position of government it is our job to provide protections, to provide an avenue for safety and to ensure that the voices of victims are heard, not silenced.

Not too long ago I was contacted by a woman who was not in my electorate but was living in a domestic violence relationship. It was a call that I answered directly from my office. I could hear the fear and desperation in the woman's voice as she outlined the escalation of violence in her domestic relationship, how she was banished to live in the shed outside the house but needed to enter the house to use the bathroom. She described how she could secure herself in the shed but never for long periods of time and how every few days she would sleep rough in her Mitsubishi Mirage or couch-surf despite spinal injuries, the pain and the discomfort, which was less than that of her domestic situation. She knew that if she did not leave, the violence would continue to escalate, yet she could not get out for more than a short time. That day—the day of that call—her situation changed forever. I am committed to ensuring that it changes for all in our community.

We need to make sure that we are sending a clear message to perpetrators that domestic and family violence is not acceptable and there will be clear action and penalties. It is not—and never will be—acceptable. I commend the bill to the House.