




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.48 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. This bill continues the Palaszczuk government's essential work in implementing the 2015 Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland report *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland*. Specifically, it implements recommendations 78, 90, 99, 112, 120 and 140.

This bill will hold perpetrators of violence more accountable and encourage them to change their behaviour and to seek intervention, assistance and support to break the insidious intergenerational cycle of domestic and family violence. Importantly, it will also provide victims of domestic and family violence with tailored protections, improved protections and of course provide earlier, more effective protections. These protections are so important for the men and women who take the brave step of speaking out about violence in our community.

This bill delivers on the need to do more, to ensure that there is a better integrated system, a system that ensures better interagency connectivity. This legislation addresses something that the domestic violence sector has been crying out for: information sharing and integration of services. I am very pleased to be able to support this bill and I believe it is another positive step forward in keeping victims safe and holding perpetrators to account.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the fantastic work that the community organisations in my electorate of Pine Rivers do for domestic and family violence protection. I am very pleased to stand behind the Palaszczuk government's record of reform in the domestic violence sector. The National Domestic Violence Order Scheme will mean that victims fleeing violence will not be limited by state and can feel safe that their DVO will stand. We want victims and survivors to be able to pursue opportunities right across Australia. If a victim is relocating to be closer to family, for employment opportunities or to make a fresh start, they will not have to go through the stress and the anguish of reapplying for a DVO in another jurisdiction.

As a former childcare worker, I understand the importance of domestic violence prevention strategies taking into account child safety. This bill also gives police the power to include additional protections in PPNs. These are conditions that exclude a perpetrator from the family home and/or prevent them contacting the victim or their children unless there is a family law order in place permitting contact until a court hearing. These amendments ensure that the safety of victims and their children remains the top priority.

Last year when I held my domestic and family violence prevention round tables and sought community feedback this point came through loud and clear. Parents or caregivers who have gone through this trauma not only want protections for themselves but also adequate protections for their

children. This legislation will also require courts to consider family law orders in conjunction with DVOs. Consultation on this legislation found that many magistrates were reluctant to suspend family law orders allowing perpetrators to see children that may be restricted under a DVO. In my electorate I have heard firsthand the significant impact this has had on children, often harrowing and heart-wrenching accounts of really awful experiences. We know that the most important consideration is the safety of victims and their children. That is why we are making this legislative change.

It is important now more than ever that we take a strong stand to ensure that we are supporting women who have experienced domestic and family violence and their children. I was shocked and appalled at the recent comments made by Pauline Hanson in her introductory speech in the Senate when she said—

Children are used as pawns in custody battles where women make frivolous claims and believe they have the sole right to the children. Children have two parents and, until we treat mums and dads with the same courtesy and rights, we will continue to see murders due to sheer frustration and depression and mental illness caused by this unworkable system.

This is reckless and dangerous commentary which puts the blame back on to victims for their abuse when they are doing their utmost to protect their families. It is hard enough for victims, so often women, to confront their attackers in a Family Court. I am proud of the Palaszczuk government for taking a strong stand against inaccurate and dangerous comments such as these. We are walking the talk when it comes to protecting women and children, and this legislation is proof of that.

I know that information sharing is something that is essential to ensuring victims of domestic violence receive the support they require to leave abusive relationships and thrive. Since the Palaszczuk government was elected 18 months ago we have been working to create an integrated response to domestic and family violence in Queensland. Following recommendations from the *Not now, not ever* report, Minister Fentiman announced three trial integrated response sites in Logan-Beenleigh, Mount Isa and Cherbourg. This was a response to the recommendation from Dame Quentin Bryce's report that an integrated response trial should be commenced in an urban location, a remote location and discrete Indigenous location. These integrated responses are coordinated by a high-risk team, representatives from key government and non-government agencies, to ensure that no victim of domestic violence falls through the cracks.

Following the success of these trials, the Palaszczuk government announced in the budget that it would be rolling out these high-risk teams to locations right across Queensland. I am so pleased that the Palaszczuk government is establishing legislative change that will ensure an integrated response that is long term and is supported. The legislation that we are introducing today to establish the legislative framework to support the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme will build on this important work as well as aligning Queensland with other states and territories. I am proud that the Palaszczuk government can pass such incredible legislation today on a day of international significance, the International Day of the Girl Child. This legislation is helping to ensure a future where our girls do not need to fear retribution for leaving a violent relationship. It will protect not only our girls today but the women of tomorrow. I commend the bill to the House.