




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.30 pm): Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month is an opportunity for Queenslanders to come together and collectively send a clear message that domestic and family violence does not belong in this state. As we mark Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month this year in May, I am pleased to see Queensland continuing to make positive steps towards stamping out this blight on our society. As members know, no matter one's background, achievements or socioeconomic status, domestic violence is a scourge that touches us all.

This month is a chance to reflect on how those we know in our everyday lives, be it our brothers and sisters, our mums and dads, our friends or our colleagues, may have been impacted by domestic and family violence in some way and reiterate our collective commitment to eradicating domestic and family violence. Whether through legislation being passed through this parliament, services being enhanced and improved by support organisations or attitudes shifting in our communities, in 2016 we can say that clearly times have changed and domestic violence has no place in our society.

I am proud to have been part of an LNP government that in 2013, under the stewardship of the member for Aspley as the then minister for communities, child safety and disability services, commissioned the *Not now, not ever* task force to stamp out domestic violence in our state. The task force, led by Dame Quentin Bryce, was commissioned so that survivors of domestic violence could tell their stories and help inform a strategy to deal with domestic violence. Most importantly, the task force provided recommendations and insights to allow the government to set the vision and direction for a Queensland strategy to stop domestic and family violence. I am greatly encouraged by the bipartisan approach the 54th and 55th parliaments have taken to adopting the recommendations of that task force, which is a demonstration of communities throughout Queensland and we as their representatives coming together and acting to stop domestic violence.

This Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month, I am pleased to see that 57 community organisations have been given funding to host activities and events to raise awareness by promoting partnerships, engaging and educating, challenging attitudes and empowering Queenslanders. It remains as crucial as ever that throughout this state individuals, families and communities continue to raise awareness and provide care and support for those who have been affected by domestic violence. As a parliament, it remains equally important that we continue taking concrete legislative steps to implement the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* task force and provide the framework needed. In my role as shadow minister for the prevention of family and domestic violence, I look forward to helping to mark this occasion and to working to continue the progress we have already made.