




Speech By  
**Tim Mander**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 April 2016

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

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (4.57 pm): I rise to speak on the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2015. Although I will be making a short contribution, I want to put on the public record my abhorrence of domestic violence. Domestic violence is an incredibly serious issue. It is a scourge that must be removed from society. The strategies that address this growing problem deserve bipartisan support and it is great to see we have it in this bill. I think this bill is a great demonstration of the two sides of politics working together. Of course, the previous LNP government commissioned the task force into domestic violence, which was headed up by Dame Quentin Bryce, and in this term of government that process led to the *Not now, not ever* report, and of course the current government is adopting those recommendations.

I am proud to say that I am in the final stages of becoming a White Ribbon ambassador. That has been a great process. It is not something that is simply given out as a badge without putting in the effort. It is something that requires some online engagement and an interview with the White Ribbon people. Although it has been a couple of months, I think I have been successful and I am just waiting for final confirmation of that.

One of the reasons I want to become a White Ribbon ambassador is that I believe it is incredibly important that everyday Queenslanders speak out about this scourge, and I think it is particularly important that men speak out against domestic violence. One of the things that we did last year in my electorate was a White Ribbon Day walk from our local park at Teralba Park up to the Nest. As I have mentioned previously in this House, the Nest is a centre for women which helps isolated women who are not networked or connected, and it is through creativity that they provide this sense of community. That was a great walk, and one of the great features of it was that many men who come from traditionally male dominated areas of society, such as football and sporting clubs and RSLs, were there at the front of the march proudly stating they are against domestic violence and that we must do everything possible to eliminate it.

I support any initiative that will be a deterrent to domestic violence. This bill seeks to amend the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to make provision for domestic and family violence to be an aggravating factor on sentence. It seeks to amend the Criminal Code to create an offence of choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting, and it also seeks to amend legislation to allow a court to receive a submission from a party on what they consider to be an appropriate sentence or sentence range for the court to impose. I support these objectives, and I therefore commend the bill to the House.