




Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Enoch**

**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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**VICTIMS OF CRIME ASSISTANCE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; BAIL (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE) AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (11.34 pm): I rise to make a very short contribution to the debate of the Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I want to start by acknowledging the Attorney-General's hard work in all of this and also the passionate advocacy of Minister Fentiman, the Minister for Women, who has been an absolute champion in terms of the implementation of the *Not now, not ever* report. It is clear from the stories that we have heard tonight and over the last few years that there would be few members in this House who cannot recount a personal story of a family member, friend, colleague or constituent whose life has been directly affected by domestic violence.

We have heard very personal stories from a number of people in this House. I, too, shared my own story last year when we were debating various areas in terms of domestic and family violence: in the dead of night your partner twice your size in a drunken rage attacking you with full force of fists to your head and escaping in your pyjamas to get in your car and get to the police station to find support. That is my story, but we have heard so many other stories that are just like that and I think we are all touched by that. We all understand it. We have shared these stories here and we have seen families who have been in the gallery tonight. I think about my mother when she saw me bruised and battered and stitched up and swollen and the pain and the fear that was on her face and then the anger in my dad's eyes to see his only daughter bashed like that. I understand where the parents are coming from when they are trying to protect their children at the other end of the violence that has occurred to them in one way or another.

For all of these stories that we know and see, there are many more that remain untold. It is also important to remember that behind every statistic about domestic and family violence is a family who has been impacted. Statistics do not tell us about the desperation that a mother who has had to flee a violent relationship must be feeling, of her children who have had to leave behind not just their favourite book or toy but things as simple as their pyjamas and toothbrush. Statistics do not tell us about the interruption to work. For me, I was a first-year teacher. How did I explain to my principal why I looked like I did and why I could not come to work? Those statistics do not tell us all about that sort of stuff. They do not tell us about that long-term effect of domestic and family violence and that years later you are still working through the damage that it has caused, not just physically but emotionally. Statistics do not tell us about bank accounts that are cleaned out by an abusive partner, about how it feels to go to the shops and see 'no available funds' as the reason for your card being declined when you try to buy groceries despite knowing that you just got paid. Statistics do not tell us about the loss of confidence, about the fear, about the emotional control that an abuser wants to exert on their partner, ex-partner or their children. They do not tell us that moving on can be so difficult. There are far too many stories just like these, and that is why each and every one of us in this House must strive not just for the idea of winning on this but for what is right.

I am proud to be part of a government that, in consultation with the community, law enforcement agencies and the sector, has taken a strong and public stand on this issue. We have not shrunk from our responsibility as political leaders or as community leaders when it comes to combating the scourge of domestic and family violence. That is why our bill before the House tonight puts in place important support and protection for survivors in these situations. Importantly, it provides access to financial assistance to all victims who have suffered injuries as a result of domestic and family violence, including those who have endured emotional and economic abuse. Our bill also helps to give a voice to victims by affording them the opportunity to provide that victim impact statement.

These additional provisions for victims of domestic and family violence provide important support to Queenslanders who are putting their lives back together after incredibly traumatic experiences—experiences that all of us in this House have shared in one way or another and who now know something about it. With those few words, I commend the Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 to the House.