




Speech By  
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**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (10.46 pm): I rise tonight to speak to the Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Bail (Domestic Violence) and Another Act Amendment Bill. Domestic and family violence in our community is a curse. I have to say, as some other members tonight have said, that it is simply beyond my comprehension. I have not experienced it myself and I have not really had any engagement with it with anybody in my family. I am very thankful for that, but I have had constituents who have come to me about domestic violence issues.

I would like to thank and pay tribute to the member for Mudgeeraba and the member for Gaven who were courageous enough over the last few months to give us an insight into their personal experiences. There have been a couple of other members tonight who have touched on that as well. I cannot even imagine the pain and anguish associated with being involved with domestic or family violence.

I want to put on the record that any man who commits violence against a woman is not a man and, secondly, any man who commits violence against a woman is a gutless coward. When I hear about these incidents, they absolutely appal me. I cannot believe that men would be that low to stoop to that type of behaviour. I want to acknowledge on the record that domestic violence victims are not just female; they are male as well. I often get emails from men in my community who remind me of that, but there is no doubt that the overwhelming majority of domestic violence cases involve men against women.

Over the last three years, over two governments, there has been an enormous amount of bipartisan support in dealing with this domestic violence issue. It started with the commissioning by the former premier of the *Not now, not ever* report by Quentin Bryce. That report was delivered in this term of government. Although we have been frustrated at times by the speed of the implementation of that review, we are heartened that the government is continuing to do that and they have had our bipartisan support. That is why tonight we will be supporting the government's legislation because it makes a lot of sense.

We are asking the government, as many members on this side of the House have stated tonight, to keep that bipartisan spirit and support what we believe are common-sense policy initiatives that will protect victims of domestic violence. Sometimes there are events that occur in our community that are so shocking that they force legislators like us to take action and take action now. We remember the tragic killing of Beth Kippen in Townsville when her alleged murderer was released on parole. That shocked the state, and rightly so the government announced an immediate inquiry into the situation of that person being released on parole. The recent murders of women through domestic violence are similar issues—issues that cause us to act immediately.

Our whole motivation for this bail bill is to make sure that we can protect victims of domestic violence from those perpetrators. We believe that introducing the presumption of bail going against an alleged perpetrator and GPS trackers on alleged perpetrators who are out on bail is common sense and provides some comfort for victims. It is incredibly important that, when there is some doubt, the benefit of that doubt goes towards the victim.

I said earlier that I have no experience of domestic violence but one of the things that I have heard—and I think it has come out in some of the speeches previously and tonight—is the sheer terror of the unknown, the sheer terror of a woman and her family not knowing where their alleged attacker is. When they go and pick up the kids at school or drop those kids off, will that perpetrator, that domestic violence attacker, be at the school waiting for them? When they sleep at night, will this bloke break into their house and again subject them to absolute terror? I cannot imagine what that would be like—living with that terror and that sheer fright, worried about yourself and your kids, not knowing where the perpetrator might be.

That goes to the heart of the bill that the Leader of the Opposition has introduced into the parliament. We want to give some comfort, some safety, to those women, their children and their relatives against people who often are just simply out of control. It has been mentioned a couple of times tonight—and I totally agree with this—that domestic violence is a very distinct and unique crime. It evokes great passion and there is this great uncertainty about somebody coming back again and again and again.

I believe that the initiatives we have introduced to the House through the Leader of the Opposition are common sense. They do not need a lot more investigation. It is quite apparent that these things will be effective. Of course they will not eliminate domestic violence, but we believe they will greatly reduce it. We believe they will give great comfort to victims and secure their safety more than what is there at the moment. We are simply asking the government for bipartisan support to continue the spirit that has been apparent and present in this House for the last three years.