




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.20 am): Recent tragic events on the Gold Coast have caused much distress in the community and reinforced the need to continue our important work to end domestic and family violence in our society. I echo the Premier's previous comments in sending our thoughts to the children, family and friends of Teresa Bradford. Although it is not appropriate to go to the details of that incident, we know that everybody—politicians, domestic violence advocates, community organisations and the broader community—all want to see an end to domestic and family violence. We all strive for the same goal: safety in our communities.

Last week's tragic events not surprisingly had people feeling angry and saddened and calling for urgent solutions to stop this senseless violence. We also know there is no one quick fix to address what is cultural change in our community. Respect towards women, reduction in personal violence, acknowledgement and accountability of actions is what we need. The Palaszczuk government is committed to addressing this scourge on our society. That is why we have sought to take a bipartisan approach to this important issue. We seek to work with all sides of politics at all levels of government across this nation to do what we can to stop domestic and family violence.

There has been a call in recent days for a change in the bail arrangements. The government is aware that today the opposition is introducing a bill on this issue. Already my department has examined the reverse onus bail arrangements, known as show cause across the country. What we do know is that there is little consistency. What we also know is that all but one jurisdiction's bail provision—being Tasmania—would not have seen a reverse onus applying to the bail application before the court in the Teresa Bradford matter as this was the first offence before the court.

Although the *Not now, not ever* report did not recommend changes to the bail arrangements, this government is open to considering improvements to the bail arrangements in Queensland. This needs to be done in consultation with those people on the front line—domestic violence groups, legal representatives and, importantly, the victims, who all deal with these matters on a daily basis—to ensure we achieve the best outcomes. We want to know which model is achieving the best results leading to a reduction in domestic violence offences. We also will continue to implement the *Not now, not ever* report recommendations to ensure that all of those witnesses who gave evidence before the task force to form the considered recommendations that received bipartisan support are not forgotten.

This work will be in addition to the significant actions already taken by this government in response to the task force recommendations, actions that have already seen significant change of attitude in our communities and awareness around domestic and family violence. The Palaszczuk government has already launched a specialist domestic violence court trial in Southport, streamlined the processes of domestic violence order applications and increased them to five years, introduced a suite of laws making domestic violence an aggravating factor for sentencing and increased penalties

for repeat breaches of orders, created a stand-alone offence for strangulation and provided greater protection for victims who appear as witnesses. What is more, when it comes to GPS tracking of offenders, we have been investigating more advanced technologies with a view to their use in domestic violence situations and working with the Minister for Police and the Queensland Police Service to achieve the best outcomes.

But for all that we can legislate against domestic violence crimes, we must also remember that tackling domestic violence will require a huge cultural change in our community. We must all as individuals be prepared to say enough is enough, that domestic violence in families is never okay—not now, not ever.