




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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MOTION

Domestic and Family Violence, Public Service Leave Provisions

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.36 pm): One of my proudest moments as a member of parliament was the first debate we had in this place following the release of the *Not now, not ever* report and the subsequent legislation. The level of bipartisanship was high and uplifting. Sadly, at that time, the community was being confronted by the very public murder of two women. As we all know, that number of women are murdered each week. After a very respectful debate, as a parliament we attended a memorial in Queens Park. I was inspired by that and I decided to work with my community to hold a local memorial service. Over 500 people gathered on a cold night at Easts junior leagues club to mourn the victims of domestic violence and to state clearly that as a community we say not now, not ever to domestic violence.

Prior to the service, I contacted the former member for Greenslopes, Ian Kaye, to invite him to participate. He had been a member of the *Not now, not ever* task force—no doubt motivated by the situations he had to deal with in his career as a police officer. I believed, and I still believe, that it is important that we respond to these issues in a bipartisan manner. Ian agreed and was generous enough to come to the event and lend his support. Ian Kaye demonstrated an approach to bipartisanship on this issue that we should all seek to emulate. I am disappointed that the LNP has brought a motion like this into this place. I think they need to go back and read the report. I hope we can continue to respond to domestic violence in a bipartisan manner.

In my reading of the report, it is clear that the committee gave great consideration to perpetrators. They focused very much on holding them to account and changing their behaviour. Following that memorial service, local residents, business owners, public servants and community organisations continued to meet to discuss how to locally respond to domestic and family violence. The group continues to meet under the banner of the Greenslopes Domestic Violence Prevention Network. The focus of this group is on changing culture and attitudes to domestic violence.

In the executive summary of the report in the section titled 'Culture and attitudes', there are two statements that I want to read now. The first statement says—

The starting point must be a comprehensive communication strategy to educate ... the community. This needs to be long term and future focused, and emphasise the seriousness of domestic and family violence, the community's intolerance of domestic violence, and the services available to victims and perpetrators.

The second statement says—

Much of the focus in this Report and elsewhere is placed on victims, but cultural change needs to happen to stop perpetrators from using violence and coercive control in their relationships. Any integrated service response must include programs to address perpetrator behaviour and hold perpetrators to account.

Those are key words: 'long-term and future focused' and 'services available to victims and perpetrators'. The politically easy thing to do is to point at perpetrators and blame them. The hard thing to do, the approach that certainly does not come naturally, is to look at perpetrators and determine what can be done to change their behaviour. That is what the report calls on us to do.

This does not mean excusing their behaviour or penalising the behaviour. It means that if we want to protect the victims of domestic violence, if we really want to stop domestic violence, we have to put time and effort into changing the behaviour of perpetrators. The report gives clear directions on how to respond to perpetrators. Let's look at recommendation No. 16. It states—

The Queensland Government leads and promotes sustained, inter-generational communication in the community about the seriousness of domestic and family violence, the community's intolerance of domestic and family violence, and the services available to victims and perpetrators.

Let's look at another recommendation. It states—

The Queensland Government identifies and implements strategies to increase perpetrators' participation in interventions, including a pilot on mandatory attendance, with the evaluation of the pilot to inform future decisions about broader use of mandatory perpetrator interventions.

I would also like the House to reflect on recommendation No. 86. This asks the Queensland government to provide—

... flexibility to service providers to offer the necessary crisis accommodation required for the situation, whether that be access to a domestic and family violence refuge or brokerage funding for the perpetrator to stay in short term accommodation

We could scream hysterically about assistance being given to perpetrators, or we could actually look at why this was recommended. If perpetrators are not separated and provided with assistance for short-term and crisis accommodation then we face the very real situation where victims take perpetrators back into their home and, thus, expose themselves to further violence.

I call on all members of this House—in fact, I implore them—to move back to a point of bipartisanship on this issue. I believe that is what my community wants on this issue. I believe that we need to go back to the *Not now, not ever* report, continue to act in a bipartisan way and not respond in this manner. We need to look at what the people in our communities are telling us they want us to do, and that is to act in a bipartisan way and to implement the *Not now, not ever* report so that we can stop domestic violence.