




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Homicide Victims' Support Group

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.48 am): Can any human being experience a more profoundly affecting event than the sudden loss of a loved one? The answer quite simply is no. What if that loss is at the hands of someone who acts with cold and callous disregard for the sanctity of human life—someone who is a murderer? The effect on the victim's loved ones is like a stone bruise to the soul—a pain that can never be erased. As you have correctly acknowledged in your remarks, Mr Speaker, in our midst today are people who understand that pain. I warmly welcome members of the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group to the gallery today. They are here for a very important reason. Today is homicide victims awareness day—an important day because it reminds us all that nothing can replace the loss of a loved one through homicide. Nothing ever totally heals those scars, but support can make a difference.

For two decades now, the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group has been reaching out to families, offering support and care when they need it most. I pay tribute to the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group for working with government to drive important laws through this parliament—laws aimed at easing the burden for those left behind. Last year this parliament passed the no-body no-parole legislation. I take this opportunity to thank sincerely the families who played such an influential role in promoting the adoption of this landmark law—advocates like Bruce and Denise Morcombe, the parents of Daniel; Fiona Splitt, whose husband Bruce was murdered north-west of Cairns, and Bruce's body has never been found; and Gary and Leanne Pullen, whose son Tim was murdered in 2012. Tim's body has also never been found.

Despite their grief, these families keep fighting for justice, for closure. Their work is truly inspiring, and today it is fitting to acknowledge the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group's hardworking members, supporters and volunteers for reaching out to others in their time of need. Our government provides financial assistance to this organisation to help them deliver crisis response, specialist grief and trauma services, peer support, court support, police support and 24-hour telephone support. We are enormously grateful to them for that work. Finally, I take this opportunity to also acknowledge our hardworking police officers who work so hard to bring the perpetrators of these cruel crimes to justice and for supporting those families when they need it most.