



Speech By  
**Cynthia Lui**


**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

### **Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month**

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (3.00 pm): Each May Queensland marks Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month to raise community awareness of domestic and family violence and to send a clear message that violence of that sort will not be tolerated. Domestic violence has no boundaries. Where there is love it is important to know that love does not suppress, threaten or harm another person. It is vital for society to understand that domestic violence can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, wealth, where they live or their cultural background. I applaud the many individuals affected by this insidious form of violence who show enormous strength and courage in telling their stories. There is no room in society for any form of violence. It is up to us to stand up against domestic and family violence in our homes, families and communities.

The *Not now, not ever* government report highlights that in 2013-14 over 66,000 occurrences of domestic and family violence were reported to Queensland police. That equates to over 180 incidents of domestic and family violence being reported every day across the state. In 2012-13 in Queensland, 17 homicides relating to domestic and family violence occurred. On average across Australia, every week one woman is killed by her partner. The annual cost of domestic and family violence to the Queensland economy is estimated to be between \$2.7 billion and \$3.32 billion.

The picture in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is even bleaker, with the *Not now, not ever* report highlighting that violence and abuse is reported as being so prevalent in some communities that it is becoming normalised. The lack of support services and poor access to the justice system compound the violence and make it impossible for victims, who are predominantly women and children, to escape.

It is important to know the signs of domestic and family violence and to take the appropriate action. Some of the signs include emotional abuse, verbal abuse, stalking and harassment, financial abuse, physical abuse, damaging property to frighten someone, social abuse, spiritual abuse, sexual abuse and depriving someone of the necessities of life such as food, shelter and medical care. I acknowledge the many organisations in our communities that do incredible work to support those affected by domestic and family violence.