




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 19 February 2020

**POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.48 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. This bill makes important changes to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012. Domestic and family violence should never be tolerated. It is a scourge on our society. We know it cuts across all countries, all cultures, all socio-economic backgrounds and all communities.

In my career as a school leader I was often called upon to reach out to families in these troubled times. Domestic and family violence does not respect boundaries. For the children it can make getting to school challenging, it can make homework and assessment hard to complete, it makes learning in the classroom challenging too, and the list goes on.

I saw firsthand the emotional impact on my students. This was difficult to watch. As an educator I was duty bound to report on instances of harm and emotional trauma affecting children in my care. That is why I strongly support any positive changes that can make a real difference to people's lives through stronger laws, policy changes, resource allocation and positive intervention. There are positive changes in this bill that will give effect to our objective of making a real difference—a real difference in the lives of the students referred to earlier and their families.

For example, under the power to give direction a police officer may direct a person to move to another stated location such as a police station, police beat or courthouse to enable the officer to serve that person with a domestic violence application or order. This is about affording greater protection to victims of domestic and family violence. Importantly, this bill expands the current power to police to direct a person to move to and remain at another appropriate place so that an officer can serve an application for a protection order, serve a domestic violence order or issue or serve a police protection notice. Again, this is further protection for victims of domestic and family violence. This will help police to de-escalate domestic and family violence incidents by separating the parties, provide opportunities for respondents to gain a deeper understanding of the documents that are being served on them and assist police in reinforcing the seriousness of what may have occurred.

I turn now to other aspects of this bill. Again, it is about protecting our most vulnerable members of our community—that is, our children. This is about protecting our children from the clutches of the dark net. We know that child sex offenders use various ways to prey on our children. They pretend to be a child themselves. They do this on social media websites that are popular with children. They engage with them as part of a sinister plan to lure them into their clutches. I experienced instances where an older man posed as a teenager to entrap an innocent victim—a student of mine at the time. He was successful in luring her to a nearby shopping centre, unbeknown to her family—luring a very intelligent and assertive young lady into his grasp.

These are unfathomable crimes. The Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry has highlighted these insidious case studies and how child sex offenders use social media to achieve their aims. Technology such as the use of passwords and encryption codes to block access to information stored on computers enables these offenders to hide evidence of their crimes—sexual assaults, child abuse, cybercrime and revenge porn, to name a few.

Amendments in this bill will ensure that police have the tools they need to detect, investigate and bring justice to these offenders who use this technology to prey on our children. Changes to access information order laws in the bill will more clearly define these powers. The bill also more clearly defines changes to access information orders in other Queensland legislation. This will enable officers from the Crime and Corruption Commission and police officers to have heightened clarity about the scope of information that is lawfully accessible on or through a digital device.

I take a moment to thank our Upper Mount Gravatt police and Holland Park police. Today we have the Holland Park police in our thoughts as they deal with a tragic incident that happened in your electorate, Deputy Speaker Kelly.

This bill is about protecting children. It is about protecting victims of domestic and family violence. It is about keeping our community safe. I commend the bill to the House.