




Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

DV Safe Phone

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.30 pm): Firstly I would like to offer my deepest condolences to those suffering as a consequence of the tragic loss of life over the last 48 hours. I know that many Queenslanders are grieving as women continue to die when they should have been safe—more precious lives lost, more families torn apart, more children left without their mothers. I know that many Queenslanders are left frustrated as they want to do something to help put a stop to these terrible tragedies. Tackling domestic violence must start from the ground up.

A mobile phone is a device that many of us take for granted, but victims of domestic violence are often in situations where they are unable to even call for help. One of the first items to be smashed or removed from a victim of domestic violence is often their mobile phone. After hearing about this difficult problem from a police senior sergeant, one Buderim local, Mr Ashton Wood, decided to act and, with the help of Sunshine Coast business King IT, he has set up a charity known as DV Safe Phone in an effort to help. DV Safe Phone aims to collect unwanted mobile phones which are then refurbished and all the user information is wiped from the phone. The phones are then given to domestic violence and law enforcement agencies to pass on to victims of domestic violence.

Through this simple but important act, DV Safe Phone restores a degree of control to victims suffering from domestic violence. It provides a potential lifeline in their moment of need. I have committed to supporting DV Safe Phone and last week I stood with Ashton to announce that my electorate office in Buderim would be a collection point for residents who would like to donate their unwanted mobile phones. My LNP colleague, the member for Whitsunday and shadow minister for the prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence, has also committed to using her electorate office as a collection point. Together we are keen to support this important initiative and help make it much easier for people to donate their old used mobile phones.

As representatives of our local communities it makes sense to partner with DV Safe Phone in the knowledge that mobile phones will provide a much needed lifeline to those suffering from domestic violence. I ask all members to consider hosting a DV Safe Phone collection point in their electorate office. While it may seem a small gesture to offer up a spare mobile phone, it is an act that literally could save a life.