




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 16 November 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (7.23 pm): Last Thursday Susan and Lloyd Clarke were honoured as Queensland's Australians of the Year. The day before that I saw Susan and Lloyd at the fantastic local Whites Hill State College, where they were presenting an award in honour and memory of their daughter, Hannah, recognising a young sportswoman from the school. I suspect that the last time Susan and Lloyd had sat in that hall would have been as proud parents in 2005 watching their daughter, Hannah, receiving her school captain's badge. Like a lot of parents, they would have helped out in the school while their kids were there but, once the kids are out of the school, life moves on. I doubt they would ever have imagined that they would be back at the school giving out awards in memory of their wonderful daughter.

Susan and Lloyd have been recognised for their efforts to prevent domestic violence—in particular, to get action on coercive control—starting the Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation. I want to quote a couple of statements from a speech Sue gave recently—

The Foundation's story begins in February last year, with something that no parent or grandparent would ever expect. I'm sure you know our story. Our beautiful daughter and grandchildren were taken from us.

And very soon after that awful day we learned a term that we'd never heard before. Coercive control. We certainly knew the signs and we knew the impacts. We just didn't know that it had a name.

We also learned—talking to the police and domestic violence experts—that it is far more widespread than we had ever imagined, and probably than most Australians had imagined.

And we were confronted with a choice. Do we close our eyes to that problem, and allow other families to continue to suffer the way that our family had suffered? Or do we do something about it?

In a million years no-one would ask for this platform. But we have it. We are going to use it to tell Hannah's story in the hope that other women will see those warning signs, and make choices that will save them. Save their children. Save their families all the devastation.

Susan, Lloyd and their son, Nathaniel, have done just that—using their platform to attempt to stop domestic violence and end coercive control, working with Attorney-General Fentiman and the task force headed by Margaret McMurdo to develop laws against coercive control. Susan also takes time to work with other volunteers at a great local community organisation Beyond DV, to speak to mothers and daughters about coercive control. Recently the foundation, after just one year of operation, awarded three community organisations \$97,000 in funding—Beyond DV, Blue Light and The Lady Musgrave Trust.

I remember clearly the day Minister Ryan rang me to tell me of the terrible murder of Hannah, Aaliyah, Laianah and Trey. It occurred on a street not far from where my grandparents had lived for 40 years—and a street I would have played on as a kid at about their age. Like our entire community, I was shocked. I wish I had never gotten to know Susan and Lloyd in this way. I wish I had just met them in the community as the hardworking, community-minded people that they are. But I am glad I have

gotten to know them. I bump into them regularly now at community events, using their platform—the one they really do not want—to end domestic violence; to stop coercive control; to honour the memory of their daughter, Hannah, and their grandchildren, Aaliyah, Laianah and Trey; to say not now, not ever to domestic violence.