




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2021

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.50 pm): I must admit that I swear. I have been swearing since 2008 when I entered the Australian Senate and, importantly, became a White Ribbon ambassador. I have been swearing the oath ever since, because as a White Ribbon ambassador I have sworn not to remain silent in the face of domestic and family violence. I am proud to have stood up for the victims of domestic and family violence. It means a lot to me. I am proud of all those who have the courage to stand up against the cowards who commit violent acts against family members and especially children.

We know that the scourge of domestic and family violence continues, and that is why I have taken the bold step of putting myself on the line to raise funds for a domestic and family violence refuge in the south-west of the state. On 3 December I, my director-general, Bob Gee, and several of my ministerial office and DAF staff will be shaving our heads in the hope of raising as much money as possible for this shelter. We have been working quietly behind the scenes, and I am pleased to say that as of today we have raised \$17,518 from 118 donors for the cause. We are well and truly on the way to our target of \$30,000.

Our primary producers and other supporters, after donating substantial dollars, are lining up to shave their heads. I would like to thank some of the biggest donors so far—and there will be many more on the way. First there are our agriculture industry partners, good friends of the Palaszczuk government and me: David Foote from Australian Country Choice; Mayor Brett Otto, South Burnett Regional Council; Councillor Kathy Duff, South Burnett Regional Council; Andrew and David Moon from Moonrocks; Peter and Vanessa Honeycombe; Carl Walker from Phantom Produce; Dean Goode from Kilcoy Global Food; James Walker of Camden Park Station in Longreach; Troy Qualischefski from Qualipac; Bryce Camm of Camm Agricultural Group; Will Wilson from AgForce; Chris Stewart from Wilmar Sugar; Beth Woods, former director-general of DAF; Chris Forrester; Damian Power; Evan Moorhead; Gary O'Halloran from the PPTEU Queensland; Terri Irwin, my good friend from Australia Zoo; Michael Choi, former MP for Capalaba; departmental and ministerial staff from many departments; and some guy called Regis.

I would also like to thank the committed people in my office who have put up their hands—and, in fact, stuck up their heads—to be a part of this. In particular, I would like to put on record my thanks to Annette from DAF. She has been a driving force in putting this forward today. She has truly committed to supporting the shelter since 2018 and has done a sterling job for DAF itself. Donating is an easy process. Google 'mycause shave for the brave' or go to www.mycause.com.au and click on the 'Donate' button. I table a flyer that has a QR code on the bottom to direct people to the relevant webpage for those donations.

Tabled paper. Document, undated, titled 'Mark Furner and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: Shave for the brave' [1803](#).

I mentioned earlier the reason I decided to stick up my hand to move into the Senate. It was on the back of some personal reflections of what happened to my daughter. I have listened to many stories in this House. Many in this House have a personal story in relation to domestic and family violence. Domestic violence is a scourge. Everyone needs to stand up and speak out against it. Until we see the back of this scourge, we should not be silent. I commend those who share their stories. I will not stop speaking out against domestic violence. I urge members to not only donate to the cause but also join me in speaking out against the scourge of domestic and family violence.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Good luck with that, Minister. Having been down that path, my only advice is to make sure you get a good beanie.