




Speech By
Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.53 pm): May is the month for domestic and family violence prevention. May is a very significant month for what it represents; it reminds us of a very sensitive topic. I rise to make this contribution in recognition of the survivors of domestic and family violence and pay tribute to those who have tragically lost their lives to this act of evil. Domestic and family violence is truly an act of evil. It does not belong in our society, it does not belong in our communities and it certainly does not belong in our homes—not now, not ever.

With May almost over it is important that we continue to talk about the issue and continue to raise awareness to send a clear message that violence will not be tolerated. As a society, we need to keep the conversation going because, as statistics would tell us, one in three women and one in four men have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner.

In Queensland over 21,000 DVO applications were lodged last year, a 17.1 per cent increase in the number of DV offences reported to police. This year 43 women have been killed by violence in Australia. At least 655 lives have been lost to domestic and family violence in Queensland since 2006. Between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2021 a total of 280 apparent suicides were identified as being domestic and family violence related. The Palaszczuk government is taking action to end domestic and family violence. However, we cannot do it alone. Since the release of the *Not now, not ever* report in 2015, we have invested \$600 million in domestic, family and sexual violence services. We have delivered all the recommendations for government in the *Not now, not ever* report.

The Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016 to 2026 is the vehicle to drive change across all sectors of the Queensland community. Our government reforms provide a layer of protection for those impacted by domestic and family violence by giving greater recognition to DV survivors' perspective, prioritising their safety and reducing the onus on them to take action or leave their home. There are still too many families being torn apart with women and children making the ultimate sacrifice to leave their homes and community. For many communities in my electorate it is the disconnection from social support; women and children are forced to flee for safety and at the same time they become even further isolated from their wider support network.

I would like to acknowledge all the community organisations in my electorate doing amazing work to support families affected by domestic and family violence: Mura Kosker in the Torres Strait, Pormpur Paanthu Aboriginal Corporation in Cape York, Cooktown District Community Care and Gungarde. I also acknowledge all the local councils in my electorate who also take this on board as a community issue. They all want to see domestic and family violence banished from our community.