




Speech By
Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.03 pm): May marks Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month in Queensland, an annual initiative to raise community awareness for domestic and family violence and coercive control and the support services available. Domestic and family violence is a disease that plagues our communities and breaks families apart. I represent families affected by domestic and family violence in one of the most vast electorates in Queensland, and all too often I see families that have to face the hard decision of whether to leave their communities and support networks behind. Consequently, children are pulled out of school. The evidence suggests there is a high proportion of women affected by domestic and family violence, and this is not right on so many levels. This is the sad reality that happens in our communities every day.

For women from my electorate, the difficult decision to leave their home and their support network behind means they become socially isolated. The decision to uproot their family for safety is daunting enough. As I have learned, this transition is never an easy one, especially when there are teenage boys involved. There are policies around housing teenage boys with mothers in shelters, and I am asked so many times, 'Where do they go?' Too often I find that the hard decision falls on women to escape domestic and family violence, and if they have children then it is mother and children. We know this is not right and we should always do more. That is why I am proud to represent the Palaszczuk government, implementing strong laws in this House to ensure our women and children are kept safe.

Every woman and child deserves the right to feel safe in their home, and it is up to all of us to do all that we can to stand up against domestic and family violence. We need to keep the conversations going in our homes, workplaces and social networks. We need to educate each other about the effects of domestic and family violence. There is power in the collective, and we should all work together to reimagine a society where women and children are kept safe at home and in the community.

I want to give a shout-out to the many community organisations in the Cook electorate that go above and beyond to keep vulnerable families safe from violence, including: Mura Kosker in the Torres Strait, Aleita Twist and her team; Weipa Community Care, Josephine Tait and her team; Pormpur Paanthu, Ganthi Kuppusamy and her team; Cooktown Community Care, Gungarde Community Centre; Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council; Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council; Lockhart Women's Shelter; Lena Passi Women's Shelter; and AFL Cape York House. There are too many to name, but I want to say a big thank you to all of those community organisations. You do so much for our communities. You are keeping our families safe in communities, and I commend you for all the great work you are doing.