




Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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**DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION (COMBATING COERCIVE CONTROL) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (11.58 am): I rise to speak in support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. On Sunday, I did what I have done for the last three years on 19 February. I went with my wife and laid flowers at Hannah's Place in Camp Hill. It is a day of sadness for our community. I thought after three years that that sadness would abate a bit for me, but it brings back painful memories.

Just across the road from Hannah's Place is Whites Hill State College. Every time I visit Whites Hill State College I see Hannah's name on the honour roll and am reminded of what an amazing person she was and how much she and her three children, Aaliyah, Laianah and Trey, who were senselessly murdered, might have contributed to our community.

The place where they were murdered is an ordinary, quiet suburban street. It is a street that my grandparents lived on for 40 years. It is a street that I played on as a kid at the same ages as Aaliyah, Laianah and Trey. To think that it could become the site of such a horrific, senseless and devastating act is very challenging and saddening to me, my family and the entire community. The Clarke family were, of course, absolutely devastated. Everybody in the state and nation was devastated by this murder. I do not know how I would react if I lost a daughter and grandchildren in such circumstances. I just do not know how I would react.

The Clarkes have suffered incredibly, but they decided that they were going to lead change. This senseless act started a long time before 19 February. This was the culmination. I have heard Sue and Lloyd talk on many occasions and I have talked to them about this issue on many occasions. One of the things they have said consistently is that one of the challenges they had is that even though they knew there was something wrong in their daughter's relationship they could not put a name to the behaviour.

One of the hardest things for health professionals to deal with in a health setting is when they do not have a diagnosis and when there is no name for a problem because they cannot treat it and work out what to do. Even if they do not have a treatment, they cannot work out how to research it because they do not know what it is. That is the sense I get when I talk to Lloyd and Sue. They did not know the term 'coercive control', but as soon as they started to understand it they could see that clearly in the pattern of behaviour that led to this terrible tragedy. With the Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation they started they have made it their mission to deal with coercive control.

I know they will be thrilled that this legislation is passing through this House. I know they want to see it in every jurisdiction in Australia. This has been done in jurisdictions internationally. They want protection for victims. They want perpetrators stopped. They want appropriate penalties. They want appropriate rehabilitation. They actively took part in the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. I was here when the report was handed down. I acknowledge the great work of the Attorney-General in relation to that and this legislation.

One of the things Sue and Lloyd said when they were here for the handing down of the report was that, while we need legislation to do all the things I have just outlined, to really make a change we need to change behaviour and attitudes in society. They were adamant that before this legislation was introduced we spend time educating the community so they understand what coercive control is and give people, particularly young people, the tools they need to be able to stop coercive control.

They have led this discussion in our community. I have seen them with groups of two or three, speaking to 3,000 people at gala dinners and everything in between. The support from our community has been nothing short of astounding. The Holland Park Hawks Football Club holds a day every year to promote awareness and raise money. Every local sporting club gets on board and does something for the Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation. The Coorparoo branch of the Bank of Queensland Coorparoo—Dustin, Rhys and the team—get behind every fundraiser for the Small Steps 4 Hannah. Coorparoo Square held a long lunch last year which hundreds of people came to. Whites Hill State College makes sure their students are involved in the Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation. The support is immense.

I pay tribute to Councillor Fiona Cunningham of the Coorparoo ward who has been at the forefront of educating the community. She managed to get me to do something last week that I have not done since I was about five. She got me to participate in the 19 days of Handstands. I thank her for that.

**Mr Krause:** I saw that.

**Mr KELLY:** It was not a pretty video, I can tell you that. It was for a good cause.

Groups like the Holland Park Hawks are trying to change the behaviour of kids and are supporting the great work in our schools when it comes to respectful relationships education that is rolling out in our local schools like Whites Hill.

This legislation is an important step forward. We have to do it all. We have to pass this legislation. We have to name the behaviour. We have to stop the behaviour. We have to protect the victims. We also need to educate the community. As members of parliament we often talk about privilege being the opportunity to stand in this place and air our thoughts with some degree of legal protection. For me, the great privilege is to vote in support of a bill like this that is changing something that is important in our community and is achieving an important outcome. It will make sure that people are protected and that if people are on the wrong path they get help for their problems.

I am also lucky because I get to work with Sue, Lloyd and their family and our entire community to try to educate people about coercive control. I will continue to work with Sue and Lloyd, people in our community and anybody who wants to say not now, not ever to domestic and particularly not now, not ever to coercive control. I commend the bill to the House.