




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.58 pm): The Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, as other speakers have alluded to, has a wide range of miscellaneous amendments that strengthen and clarify our administration of justice. One key measure that this bill is delivering on is the Palaszczuk government's commitment to consider reforms to better recognise the deaths of unborn children as a result of criminal conduct. We know that the loss of an unborn child is devastating. I would like to put on record my acknowledgement of the work that the current and the former member for Lockyer have done. My heart goes out to those who have been touched in such a cruel way of losing a child to a criminal act, especially to Sarah and Peter who have been here today.

To lose an unborn child as the result of another person's criminal actions is profoundly distressing to the parents, the family and the whole community. The amendments within this bill will strengthen and recognise the loss of the unborn child and improve the support available to families, which is so important. The amendments do not displace the recognition of harm caused to the expectant mother as the primary victim of the criminal conduct, but they ensure independent recognition of the unique harm that is caused when the life of an unborn child is ended as a result of criminal conduct.

Importantly, the amendments do not affect the women's ability to obtain a lawful termination of pregnancy and do not displace the born-alive rule that deems legal personhood to apply when a child is born in a living state, independent of its mother. The amendments in this bill will provide a way to maintain this fundamental aspect of the law while creating better recognition of the death of an unborn child as a result of a criminal act. I support the bill.