




Speech By  
**Kim Richards**

**MEMBER FOR REDLANDS**

---

Record of Proceedings, 22 February 2023

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

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (4.32 pm): I rise in support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I thank so many of the members in this place who have contributed so meaningfully to this debate. I had the opportunity earlier to tune into some of the member for Traeger's contribution. I would ask him to read the member for Logan's contribution relating to the statistics around the number of women who are dying at the hands of men. Statistics do not lie; those are the facts. To hear that this is an emotional debate, well, it darn well is an emotional debate. If we do not talk about it and work on it, we are never going to get to the point where we solve domestic and family violence in our communities.

From the outset I thank all of those submitters and witnesses who have shared their deeply painful and personal stories and experiences. I want to thank all of those organisations and individuals who work each and every day in the prevention of domestic and family violence because it is only through working together as a community that we will solve this problem and change the ending for so many women, children and families.

While I am on my feet, I want to take this opportunity to thank those organisations in the Redlands. Stacey from the Centre for Women & Co is an absolute powerhouse. She has been transforming the landscape in the Redlands when it comes to advocacy and awareness and preventing domestic and family violence. Stacey and the team work to support people who are in crisis situations, and I know they do a fantastic amount of work across my island community. If you think about domestic and family violence in an island context, the only way you can get off that island is on a ferry that has a very rigid timetable.

When you talk about coercive control and tracking movements, for so many women on our islands they have done an amazing job. I also thank Lil Flanagan, who is about to step into the next chapter of her work in the domestic and family violence space. She has done a fantastic job as the manager of the Redlands office for the Centre for Women & Co. The work that she has done personally is amazing. I know that she will continue to do amazing things and I wish her well in the next chapter.

The Centre Against Sexual Violence in Redlands also does an amazing job. Betty Taylor from the Red Rose Foundation is incredible. There are so many organisations that are working hard right the way across Redlands to see an end to domestic and family violence. As every member in this place will know, next week sees the commencement of International Women's Week, so I cannot think of a more perfect time to bring this legislation into the parliament for debate.

I know there are a lot of events planned right across the Redlands next week in terms of talking about the importance of women in our communities and the important role that men play in our communities—the important role they must play if we are to see that change. I am looking forward to emceeding the inaugural Redlands Domestic Violence Awareness ambassador program. I am really proud of the member for Capalaba, Don Brown, who will also be stepping into that role as an ambassador. The event will not only raise awareness but also vital funds for services in the Redlands,

so I thank Rabieh Krayem for all of his work in bringing this event together. He has the most incredible sister who is coming up from Sydney. She plays a very big role in multicultural communities across New South Wales in the domestic and family violence space. That should be a really terrific event, and I am looking forward to seeing lots of men in the room.

I also thank the Attorney-General and Premier for all of the work they have done. They have been tireless in their pursuit of advancing women in our communities and looking at the issues that impact us the most. They have been unwavering in their pursuit of an end to domestic and family violence. That has been played out large in this chamber over the last eight years, particularly in the last two years. We have built on the *Not now, not ever* report. The Hon. Margaret McMurdo has done a fantastic job with the task force and its recommendations which we in this place will be working to deliver. The work of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce has been outstanding. Their comprehensive consultation with victims is at the heart of that research work, so thank you to everyone who participated in that. We held a commission of inquiry into police responses into domestic and family violence, and I think the member for Cooper put it extraordinarily well when she said that that is a very difficult piece of work to undertake. There is lots of very hard work and difficult conversations, but our government is doing that. We are working in that space to make sure that everybody is coming on this journey with us.

As I said, this is the first step to make sure we bring coercive control to the forefront. It is the foundation piece. It is an important piece of work and we must make sure we get it right for our communities. I am proud of what the Palaszczuk government is doing in this space, as is everybody on this side of the House. We will make sure that women in our communities are safer and that we have stronger communities. I commend this bill to the House.