




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.29 pm): As the member for Logan I am invited to so many gatherings that are joyous and connect the community, but one of the saddest events I attended was at a townhouse complex in Browns Plains which as their member I had previously doorknocked. But this time it was different: one of the townhouses was missing. I notice the member for Waterford has arrived; the member for Waterford was there with me. Even though we were in a crowd, I had the overwhelming sense of being alone because I could still smell the burning ashes of the house that had been burned down with Doreen Langham inside. It has touched all members of the Logan community profoundly, and we in this place will look every day for opportunities to make change. I want to acknowledge Defenders for Hope, which is an organisation that sprung from those ashes to try and fight for women who face domestic violence and keep them safe. I commend and support their work.

A member in this place attempted to step away from the idea that this is overwhelmingly an issue of men who hurt their female partners, so I want to look at the actual statistics. In our country, between July 2010 and June 2018 there were 240 men who killed their female partners and, significantly, 65 women who killed their male partners. When we look further at those statistics we see that 95 per cent of those who were convicted of the murder of their partner were male, so that is a ratio of 95 per cent to five per cent. Even if we include both murder and manslaughter, 82 per cent of those convicted were male. When I look at those statistics they are stark and they are something that, as a married man, I am deeply concerned about. What is it in my Australian male culture that I need to tackle to make a change? Because no brave, upstanding Australian man could ever accept those statistics. They are stark. The other statistics quoted included very sad cases of fathers killing sons, sons killing fathers and past partners killing present partners. The stats are absolutely clear: 95 per cent of those convicted of the murder of their intimate partner were men who killed their female partner and only five per cent were women who killed male partners.

I am brave enough to stand up to that stark and terrible fact and realise that we need to address it. Some say it is a gender lens. Let's say it is a responsibility lens. Men need to look at these statistics and say, 'We need to change the way we view our partners and the way we view our relationships.' Looking at the changes needed going forward, this bill is an important step towards making that change. Men need to be encouraged to confront the stark facts on this issue.