



Speech By  
**Shane King**


**MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Domestic and Family Violence, Red Benches

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (7.03 pm): This evening I rise to commend the partnership between the Caboolture Sports Club, the Moreton Bay Regional Council, the Queensland Police Service and the Red Rose Foundation that has delivered another three red benches to our local community. It was an honour to be included in the recent launch alongside my parliamentary colleagues the police minister and local member of parliament, Mark Ryan, and our neighbour the member for Bancroft.

For many of our constituents the Caboolture sporto, which is the latest location of a red bench and our host for the launch, is the place to go for lunch or dinner and drinks, or a flutter on the pokies for those who are so inclined. Red benches remind us that domestic and family violence happens in our communities, with victims and perpetrators coming from all walks of life. We know that alcohol consumption can be a trigger or factor in some cases so the sporto is the perfect place to put a visible prompt for conversations about domestic and family violence that may otherwise not be had. Those conversations provide opportunities to call out those behaviours if and when we see them.

Across the Moreton Bay region there are now 25 red benches and three of them are in my electorate: one at the Burpengary Police Station, one at the grounds of the Moreton Bay Lions AFL Club and another right behind my office in the Narangba Valley Town Square Park. At the launch we heard that there are plans to install another six across the region, including at the Caboolture Sports Football Club in Burpengary, taking the total to over 30.

I want to make mention of the devastating impact that domestic and family violence has on children. A point that may have been a bit lost in the recent discussion that we had here around youth crime is this: children are not born bad. Regardless of your position on nature versus nurture, I think all of us in this place can agree that kids are not born bad. They are shaped, or sadly in some cases not shaped, in large part by their home and family environments. Children growing up in violent homes are already behind the eight ball and that is not okay. If a red bench can help change the outcome for even one family or one child then it is worth the effort and worth the investment. As the motto states, together let's take a seat to take a stand.

I conclude by saying a special thanks to the officer in charge at Burpengary Police Station, Senior Sergeant Michelle Dodds. Senior Sergeant Dodds has been driving the red bench initiative in our community for a couple of years now. Recently she organised a renovation within the Burpengary station to create a vulnerable person's safe room. That room provides an informal environment with a fresh coat of paint, colourful accents, comfortable couch seating and games and toys for children. It makes the incredibly difficult decision for a victim to report a crime, such as family violence, that little bit easier. Senior Sergeant Dodds's enthusiasm and commitment to the prevention of domestic and family violence is greatly admired and appreciated in our community. I want to thank her for her passion and her dedication to the force. I cannot finish without giving a shout-out to our local hardware owner, Jason Miller, from Millers hardware, who also donated a lot to that room.