




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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ADJOURNMENT

Moreton Bay Says No to Violence March

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (7.04 pm): Last week I marched with my community in the Moreton Bay Says No to Violence annual march. This peaceful march is an opportunity for individuals, businesses and community organisations to join together to raise awareness and raise our voices against domestic and family violence in our communities. I have marched many times as the member for Redcliffe, but this year I felt privileged to march as the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. The march is now in its fifth year. We had hundreds of people join us on the march including police officers, representatives from local businesses, schools, churches and not-for-profit organisations. There was a great representation from Queensland Corrective Services as well as a banner. It was great to see the turnout for them.

In particular, it was great to see the large number of schools and young people who attended the march. It was great to hear from speakers, including: Holly Brennan from the Centre Against Domestic Abuse; Acting Assistance Commissioner John Hallam from the Queensland Police Service; Natalie Hinton from the Tara Brown Foundation; Dean Cooper from the Mates Bystander Program at Griffith University; Issy Preece and Jack Perkins, who are student leaders at Grace Lutheran College; the powerful welcome to country from Aunty Sharyn Malone; and CEO Chris from Encircle.

The impacts of domestic and family violence are far-reaching for victims and their families, as we all know. We know that tragically one in six women and one in 18 men have experienced physical or sexual violence from a partner they are living with, and of course that is only the ones that are reported. I know that many people were marching for themselves, a colleague, friend or family member, and I could see that emotion during the ceremony. I was pleased there were support people on hand for anyone needing assistance. As those in this chamber know, the Palaszczuk government has invested more than \$1.5 billion already to combat domestic, family and sexual violence. It is Sexual Violence Awareness Month this month, so it is timely to also lift that awareness. In the Moreton Bay region we are investing \$9.3 million in domestic and family violence services, an increase of \$2.5 million from the previous year.

Can I extend my gratitude to Encircle Community Services for organising this event and the invaluable work they perform every day. I would also like to thank CADA for the work they do in our community to support victim-survivors of abuse. Organisations such as Encircle and CADA provide essential frontline services, but they also provide victims with an opportunity for their voices to be heard. It is crucial that we continue to raise community awareness around the many behaviours that may constitute domestic, family and sexual violence, including coercive control, and to help provide victims with the support they need. I would also like to thank the victim-survivors and those who attended on behalf of everybody for joining us last week. I see so many members of our community who are raising awareness and saying 'enough is enough'.