



Speech By  
**Hon. Charis Mullen**


**MEMBER FOR JORDAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2024

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month**

 **Hon. C MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.30 pm): The month of May is Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month—a month-long campaign aimed at raising awareness, providing support and fostering collaborations against domestic and family violence in our communities. This year's theme, 'It's in our control to end coercive control', recognises the important and historic changes to our Queensland laws that have seen coercive control made a criminal offence in our state.

I have been honoured to host the Domestic Violence Night of Remembrance and Candlelight Ceremony in my electorate of Jordan over the last three years. This year I was so pleased to partner with Multicultural Australia for the event to ensure that our diverse and multicultural communities in Jordan can also be part of these important conversations. I give a huge thanks to CEO Christine Castley and her team for their support and assistance.

Multicultural Australia has a hub established at Brighton Homes Arena, the home of the Brisbane Lions women's team and administration base for the club. I give a massive shout-out to the Brisbane Lions, who generously offered Brighton Homes Arena for our night of remembrance and were there to support the event. This included allowing a message of community support to be placed on the massive electronic billboard and lighting up the stadium in purple, which is the traditional colour for Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month.

The event was also supported, as it is every year, by the incredible team from the Domestic Violence Action Centre. The Domestic Violence Action Centre has a long history of providing high-quality services to women, children, young people and individuals who have experienced domestic, family and sexual violence in Ipswich, Toowoomba and the surrounding regions. DVAC plays a critical role in my community, especially around Greater Springfield, and I am deeply grateful for the support they are providing each and every day to those impacted by domestic and family violence. I want to acknowledge CEO Aime Carrington, who gave an incredible address on the night, for her continued advocacy for domestic and family violence services in our region.

Despite some shocking rain and cold weather, I was absolutely heartened by the number of people who showed up, women and men, to remember those we have tragically lost to domestic and family violence and to say we want to see an end to domestic and family violence in our community. I want to thank the many individuals who turned up, including the federal member for Blair, Shayne Neumann MP, and the state member for Bundamba, Lance McCallum MP. I want to thank our community organisations, our schools, our sporting clubs, our multicultural community, our churches and faith-based organisations, our local businesses and our police and health services.

To be honest, I was a little bit despondent heading into this year's event. One woman killed every four days at the hands of a man in Australia feels like the end of domestic and family violence is so far away. My community braved the rain and faced the cold, and they turned up to say domestic and family violence must end in our community and our country. That gives me hope that perhaps the end is closer than we think.