




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.53 pm): As members of this place, we know that gender violence is a scourge in our community. In modern Australia there is simply no place for it. It is a cancer, and cancers have a habit of coming back to haunt us. We know that cancers are difficult to eliminate, but surely we must try. We need to ask serious questions in Australia about why men hurt women and why men kill women. So many women in our community—and parliament is no different—have experienced some form of gender violence to varying extremes. In fact, I guarantee most women in this place will have at least one personal story about gender-based violence. I recall having experienced a very unpleasant touchy ex-employer at the age of 16 in my first job. My own daughter experienced harassment, including sexual harassment, at the hands of her supervisor in the AFP. I do not want my little granddaughter to grow up in a world where she is likely to suffer at the hands of a man.

Most men will never quite understand the innate sense of awareness that women constantly feel about their personal safety. Is it safe to go to the supermarket? Should I park my car here? Should I get in this Uber? How do I avoid being left alone with this man? These are questions that are simply part of everyday living for our women. Our radar is always up about our personal safety. That radar never switches off. It should not be this way, but it is. I doubt that there are any men in this room who are on guard like this.

Gender violence is a problem that women should not have to fix. It is for men to change their behaviours; it is for men to change their ways. It is men—I repeat, men—who are killing women. A 30 per cent spike in this year alone is more than just confronting; it is an indictment on our nation. I extend my deepest sympathies to the women who have been killed at the hands of men and to the victim-survivors, their children, their extended families and their loved ones. Those violent killings are just the tip of the iceberg. How many tens of thousands of women are in a controlling, abusive and potentially homicidal relationship?

As part of Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month, I will be hosting a candlelight vigil next Thursday at the Wynnum foreshore at 5.30 pm in conjunction with a number of our local community groups, like Zonta, Wynnum and Manly Rotary and SCOPE. It is all to raise local awareness of this issue. We will hear from victims of violence with some stories that are very hard to hear. I encourage all members of the community to attend. I would also ask for people to make donations of old phones. I have a DV Safe Phone box in my office. I encourage everyone to stand up and stop this terrible scourge on our society.