



Speech By
Hon. Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2025

MOTION

Safer Families, Safer Communities

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.29 am): I move—

That this House:

1. notes the serious impact that domestic and family violence has on families across Queensland;
2. notes the Crisafulli government's commitment to take meaningful action on domestic and family violence;
3. notes the Crisafulli government's Safer Families, Safer Communities plan to protect victims of domestic and family violence by piloting a new GPS tracker program for high-risk domestic violence offenders;
4. calls on all members of the House to endorse the Crisafulli government's Safer Families, Safer Communities plan.

We were clear when we came to government that we would introduce a comprehensive, practical plan to combat domestic and family violence. As part of our Safer Families, Safer Communities policy, we will roll out 500 GPS trackers to high-risk domestic violence perpetrators. This has been called for by victim advocates and it has been called for by the Queensland Police Service so they can have extra resources and extra tools. More importantly, it has been called for by victims themselves who do not feel safe in their community. Perpetrators of domestic violence were not held to account by the former Labor government because Labor failed to deliver meaningful action to hold them to account.

As part of my 100-day plan for my portfolio, we formed a working group consisting of victim-survivors. In very recent times, victim-survivors have experienced gaps in the system where they were failed by a government policy that did not have any practical implementation and was not evaluated. This working group will meet and advise me and my department on where we need to prioritise the reforms for those gaps.

We will do what those opposite refused to do—that is, hold perpetrators to account. Over the last decade while those opposite were in government, the number of breached domestic violence orders grew year on year. The previous Labor government sent a message: 'If you commit domestic violence, it's okay. Breach your order and you can go back out there again.' There were no consequences. This occurred in places like Townsville, Brisbane, Rockhampton, Ipswich, Caboolture, Mount Isa, Gladstone, Bundaberg and Ipswich. Last week I was in Cairns, where 10 per cent of all domestic violence occurs. The police there are under enormous pressure and they fear that a woman's life will be lost because of the failures of the previous government. The previous government failed to properly resource the police, they failed to ensure the laws that are in place are being utilised by the judiciary and they failed to ensure tools like GPS monitoring are being used proactively after breaching, not waiting until the perpetrator has committed harm and assaulted their victim.

This will be an added tool, alongside the introduction of coercive control legislation, which we supported in opposition. We know that victims want reassurance. This GPS monitoring device will not only hold perpetrators to account; a response button will also be given to victim-survivors so they can

feel safe and be monitored. In that way, we will know where the perpetrator is and we will also know if we need to contact the victim to enact a safe plan. I have not wasted a minute in this portfolio. We have commenced a review into DVConnect based on not just the demand on that service to answer calls but also the performance of that frontline service to support our Police Service. It is most important that the calls from victim-survivors are being answered.

Those opposite were not tough on perpetrators. I call for their support today to align with the government and hold perpetrators to account. I call on those opposite to support this accountability for perpetrators. We on this side of the House take this seriously. We will put victims ahead of perpetrators, just as we did with the Making Queensland Safer Laws where we put victims ahead of those committing crimes. We will be tough on domestic violence perpetrators and we will hold them to account.

(Time expired)