



Speech By  
**Hon. Amanda Camm**


**MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2025

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Domestic and Family Violence, Candlelight Vigils**

 **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) (2.30 pm): Didn't we just hear history being rewritten! That was incredible. I remind the opposition that, during the election campaign, as our incredible candidate for Maryborough was working hard, the former member for Maryborough was in my electorate, drinking cups of coffee and touring North Queensland. That is what the former member for Maryborough was doing and those opposite wonder why the former member for Maryborough was not re-elected. He took regional Queensland for granted, unlike our local member who works hard and tirelessly to represent his community. We look forward to supporting him in all his endeavours in representing the people of Maryborough.

Last week I had the incredible and humbling privilege of standing alongside frontline workers of the Queensland Police Service and CEO Amanda and her management committee from Protea Place for one of the most emotional domestic violence candlelight vigils I have ever attended. We remembered and honoured the lives of Louise Hunt and Frances Crawford. We talk about lives being lost to domestic and family violence. I shared that lives are not lost; lives are taken. What is lost is a woman's right to raise her children. What is lost is her right to see them grow up. What is lost is her right to be safe. As those alleged incidents play out, what is left is a community in mourning. I want to acknowledge the leadership of Mayor Geoff McDonald and his council, the Toowoomba community and other representatives with whom I got to spend time as part of that candlelight vigil. We will stand with them. I look forward to meeting with the mayor later this week to see how we can better support his community through the recovery period.

I also thank and pay respects to the organising committee of the Brisbane candlelight vigil. Members from both sides of the House attended. I thank Micah Projects, Challenge DV, Red Rose Foundation, DVConnect, UnitingCare and Immigrant Women's Support Services for what they do not just once a year but each and every day to support victim-survivors of domestic and family violence.

This month, with Beyond DV, I also had the privilege of launching the Ask a Mate app. I encourage all members of this House to promote the app across their communities. We heard from Jeff Horn, Mason Black and Harris Andrews of the Brisbane Lions. They are young men leading the way. We are a government that wants to invest in and support prevention. Those young men are demonstrating the leadership that we need to turn the tide in the next generation when it comes to domestic and family violence.

I thank the Brisbane Lions and the Brisbane Broncos who, for the first time, brought together 1,000 attendees at a lunch held next door at The Star to recognise Domestic Violence Prevention Month. It was incredible to see Sue and Lloyd Clarke once again standing up and advocating on behalf of Queenslanders and engaging in the broader conversation that it takes the whole community to combat domestic and family violence. They will receive their Order of Australia this year. It is important

to note that from 26 May coercive control will become a criminal offence in Queensland. It will carry a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment due to the serious nature of the offence, the harm that coercive control can cause victim-survivors and, sadly, the fact that it can take a victim's life.

I thank the Queensland Police Service for undertaking significant training, and more training will be ongoing. In my own community, I have spoken with the local Whitsunday Counselling and Support service and we now have embedded workers in police stations in the Whitsundays and Bowen. The rollout of the vulnerable person's unit, aligned with embedded workers, is making a difference across our state for victim-survivors and their experiences. This month, let us all take time to pause and remember the lives lost.