



Speech By
Hon. Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

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DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (4.50 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I would like to thank the members of the committee and the committee staff for their consideration of the bill. I would also like to thank those who made submissions to the bill, especially the victim-survivors who shared their stories. I quote—

Domestic violence can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender or wealth, where they live or their cultural background. Those who are affected by this insidious form of violence show enormous courage in telling their stories in their own words.

These are words from the *Not now, not ever* report, commissioned back in 2014 by the then LNP government. I want to remind the House that it was the LNP that started so many of these domestic and family violence reforms. We are now 10 years on and we are still addressing domestic and family violence in legislation. It does beg the question: what has happened in the last 10 years of Labor governments when, within 10 months of coming to government, the LNP government are back here in parliament with much needed reforms to address issues in the domestic and family violence area?

The Crisafulli government is committed to putting victims first, and protecting domestic violence victims goes to the very heart of what we believe. Our government also supports our police, especially those police at the front line responding to domestic and family violence. Our police need the tools to protect vulnerable people. These legislative amendments give the police those additional tools to do their job.

Police currently have access to issue police protection notices, PPNs, which provide the aggrieved persons with protection until the application for a domestic violence order can be heard by a court. Currently there is no framework in Queensland empowering police officers to administratively issue immediate long-term protection directions without filing an application for a proceeding before a court.

This legislation before the House today will enable police officers to issue 12-month police protection directions, PPDs, when responding to domestic and family violence that does not require further court consideration. There are circumstances where police need to have this additional tool and where it is appropriate for the matter not to proceed to court. This government's legislation will empower victims and hold the perpetrators to account and make Queensland safer. Over Labor's decade of decline, victims suffered the most. These bills put a stop to Labor's neglect. This bill reflects our continued commitment to support victim-survivors.

During the election campaign, the LNP committed to a pilot of electronic monitoring devices for high-risk domestic and family violence offenders. This bill enables a framework for the courts to impose a monitoring device condition on a respondent in certain circumstances when dealing with a domestic violence order. The Crisafulli government's reforms through GPS trackers on high-risk offenders and

empowering police with the tools they need to offer immediate protection for vulnerable Queenslanders will help make our state safer. It is just the start. I want to thank the Minister for Families, the Minister for Police, the Minister for Victim Support and the Attorney-General for the work they have done in this area. It is truly commendable.