




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 28 August 2025

**DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.49 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. At the very core of this legislation is an undisputed truth: every Queenslanders deserves to feel safe in their own home and in their own community. The Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government is committed to putting victims first, holding perpetrators to account and restoring safety where you live for all Queenslanders.

Within the last decade, the number of calls for service to domestic and family violence incidents increased by approximately 218 per cent. That statistic alone is staggering. It is really shocking to think of the number of incidents that are taking place across Queensland. We all must do more to work together to eliminate domestic and family violence, because it has significant impacts on individuals as well as those functioning family units. There are obviously the impacts that it has on our first responders—our police officers and others—who are called to these incidents.

Whether it is elected representatives here in the Queensland parliament, those who are leading community organisations or other professionals who are involved, we all need to work collaboratively to address this. It is a complex issue and a complex problem. Not one solution alone will eliminate this, but it is very important that we set high standards, that we educate our young people with respect to respectful relationships and also that they have a greater understanding of the impacts that domestic violence has.

Those statistics highlight not only the scale of the problem but also the urgent need for a system that responds swiftly, effectively and, above all, with compassion for victim-survivors. The legislation before the Queensland parliament reflects the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government's clear commitment to making victim safety paramount whilst ensuring perpetrators are accountable for their actions. The bill introduces a range of reforms which I wish to briefly address. I will turn first to police protection directions, PPDs.

Currently, frontline officers can issue police protection notices that provide interim protection until a matter is considered by the court. However, the reality is that victims often need immediate and lasting protection. The reforms before us will allow police to issue a PPD, providing protection for up to 12 months. This represents a significant strengthening of our frontline response. A PPD may include standard conditions such as a requirement for good behaviour and non-standard conditions such as no-contact, ouster, return and cool-down conditions.

Importantly, PPDs cannot be used casually or without oversight. A police officer must seek approval from a supervising officer, with higher thresholds of approval required for conditions that impose more significant restrictions. These safeguards strike the right balance between urgency and accountability. They ensure that the issuing of a PPD is not arbitrary but is based on clear criteria including the criminal history of the respondent, the wishes of the aggrieved and the paramount principle of the safety and wellbeing of victims including that children must always come first.

There are also clear exclusions. For example, PPDs cannot be used if the aggrieved or the respondent is a child, if the matter involves a police officer, if a domestic violence order is already in place or if weapons have been used or threatened. These exclusions are important because they recognise that some matters require the full consideration and authority of the courts. This legislation also provides for review pathways, including police and court reviews. This ensures that decisions can be revisited, particularly if new information becomes available. Where necessary, the courts will be able to make or vary protection orders, ensuring victims are not left unprotected.

The second major reform enabled through this legislation is the introduction of a GPS electronic monitoring pilot for high-risk domestic and family violence perpetrators. This was another clear election commitment, and today the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government is delivering on that promise. We know that physical distance is not always enough to keep victims safe. That is why courts will be empowered in defined high-risk cases to impose a monitoring device condition on offenders. This will allow authorities to track perpetrators and to enforce ouster or no-contact conditions in a practical and enforceable way. The pilot will initially involve 150 devices across selected courts, supported by regulation. It will be carefully evaluated, with a sunset clause in place to ensure a full review and evaluation before a broader rollout. I note that victim-survivors will also be able to carry their own GPS enabled safety devices, enhancing their sense of security and confidence.

This legislation also makes important changes to the rules around evidence. We know that giving evidence in court can retraumatise victims of domestic and family violence. Accordingly, this legislation will expand the videorecorded evidence-in-chief framework to allow all magistrates courts to accept recorded statements from adult complainants. This means a victim-survivor will not necessarily be required to retell their trauma multiple times in a courtroom setting. This legislation will also streamline processes, remove unnecessary restrictions and allow statements to be taken in a more victim-centric way, including in multiple languages. That is very important when it comes to supporting victims of domestic and family violence events. These are certainly practical steps that will reduce trauma while strengthening the quality of evidence available to the court.

This legislation also strengthens the approved provider list for intervention and counselling services. It provides the chief executive with greater flexibility to ensure that only properly accredited service providers are approved. This is not only about accountability for taxpayers' money; it is also about ensuring that perpetrators who are directed to attend programs receive meaningful interventions that address their behaviour. Taken together, these reforms represent the beginning of a new chapter for Queensland. They are certainly not a silver bullet, and no state government should ever pretend that legislation alone can eradicate the scourge of domestic and family violence. The Crisafulli LNP state government has made it clear that victim safety comes first and that perpetrators will be held to account and the system will be rebuilt so that it works for those who need it most.

Finally, in the electorate of Moggill there are a number of organisations that have made an important contribution to tackling and eliminating domestic and family violence. I want to recognise a number of local Rotary clubs and Country Women's Association branches that have supported victims of domestic and family violence and provided practical assistance over many years. Those local organisation branches are in the electorate of Moggill. They have made an important contribution locally but also more broadly to what we are all trying to do, which is eliminate domestic and family violence here in Queensland.

As I said, it is a very complex issue. It requires multifaceted solutions. Legislation is important and is part of the solution; however, the cultural change on which we all need to work together collaboratively will take many years of implementation. Certainly, as I said earlier, when we look at the statistics and what is happening not only here in Queensland but across Australia as well, they are very sobering statistics. I think together we can do that. This will require the sustained work of many people—individuals and organisations and the broader community working together. I encourage them to do so. With those words, I commend the legislation to the House.