




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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MOTION

Safer Families, Safer Communities

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (11.55 am): We on this side of the House have always been committed to addressing the scourge of domestic violence across our communities. Domestic violence has forever been part of our community. It may not have always been talked about—in the past it may have been hidden—but domestic violence is a complex issue that has been part of our communities for way too long. I am very disappointed in the LNP government and their approach to this debate today. The LNP government past would have announced the *Not now, not ever* report and engaged in a significant review of local and global research to ensure whatever laws we debated in this House were reflective of the latest evidence around how we address this scourge.

Regardless of which government is in leadership in Queensland or the country, domestic and family violence has been an issue and a scourge across all of our communities. This side of the House has a very proud record on addressing the issue of domestic and family violence. In fact, when in government we addressed, and were continuing to address, the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report. We implemented measures to address retaliatory orders imposed by perpetrators on victims. We legislated in respect of coercive control. We also introduced legislation to address affirmative consent, which I know from my past as a school leader is very much an issue amongst our young people. There has been historic law reform in this state led by Labor including tougher penalties on DV perpetrators.

There were myriad legislative changes in the time Labor was in power in Queensland. This is not new to us. If those opposite were serious about addressing domestic and family violence they would have brought legislation to this House. They would have given us fair warning of their intention to bring this motion to this House. I acknowledge those opposite who are reading written speeches. This shows that they well and truly knew that this issue was on the agenda for today.

To suggest that the Labor opposition is not supportive of anything that will reduce injury and risk to young people and to their mothers is a disgrace. Every week two women are killed in this country. Domestic and family violence needs to be addressed by both sides of this House in a bipartisan way. It is deeply entrenched in our community. Those opposite who think one or two strategies will solve this issue are absolutely wrong. These issues are deeply entrenched. It begins with our young people. We have a proud history of introducing the Respectful Relationships curriculum, thanks to the education minister and the minister for youth justice at the time.

This issue is complex. It absolutely begins with our young men in schools and our young men in our community, and we all have a responsibility to educate our young people. We all have a responsibility to address the issues of gender and understandings about gender, understandings about power. That is how it has all begun. We certainly want to be at the table in a bipartisan way to ensure Queensland women and children are kept safe. Our communities expect nothing else and my electorate

of Mansfield is no different to any other electorate in Queensland. It affects every woman and child across every community. It cuts across every demographic, every economic profile. In fact, it cuts across every country in the world.

Our communities expect us to address this issue as leaders. They expect us to set the tone. They expect us to address this issue with maturity, drawing upon the latest research and evidence from across the world as to how we address this really important issue. Shame on you, LNP.