




Speech By
Hon. Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (8.44 pm): I rise today to contribute to the debate on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. Every Queenslanders deserves the right to feel safe in their home, but for too many women, children and families home is where the danger is greatest. Domestic and family violence leaves scars that last long after the incident, scars that can never be fully healed. Victim-survivors show extraordinary courage, but they should never have to fight a broken system at the same time as they are fighting for their safety.

I speak from personal experience when I say that our frontline police officers see this reality every single day. They are the ones who knock on the door at two in the morning not knowing what situation they will walk into. They are the ones who comfort children clinging to their mothers. They are the ones who take the statements from frightened victims, knowing the perpetrator may be lurking nearby.

For the last 10 years under the former Labor government, calls for service for domestic and family violence grew by 20 per cent year on year, increasing by 218 per cent from 2014 to 2024. While the numbers exploded, Labor ignored the pleas of our police and their unions, who were warning them that our front line could not sustain a system that was breaking. They could not protect vulnerable victims. Labor ignored the voices of police, the unions and victim-survivors, who begged for change.

Right now, police respond to a domestic and family violence incident every three minutes. Last year alone, the number of calls for help soared to more than 200,000. At present, the equivalent of 2,481 full-time police officers are dedicated to this important work. If nothing changes, by the year 2032 the number of officers will need to be more than double—5,747 officers—just to keep pace.

In some districts like Logan, as has been reported in the media, there can be up to 200 unresourced calls for service at any one time, which means there are no police available to attend. Often around 80 per cent of these calls are domestic and family violence related. That is not only unsustainable; it is unacceptable. While police are drowning in paperwork, victims are left hanging on the phone in fear. The longer it takes police to protect one victim, the longer it takes them to get to the next victim, and that victim could be your mother, your aunt or your sister.

The Crisafulli government is not prepared to continue doing the same thing and expect a different outcome. This bill delivers real reforms that put victims first and finally gives police the tools they have been calling for.

First, police protection directions will give officers the power to provide immediate, on-the-spot protection. No longer will victims be forced through lengthy retraumatising court processes just to secure their safety. The burden shifts where it belongs—onto the perpetrator. Critically, police protection directions can be issued in the moment, when victims are most vulnerable, when danger is at its highest.

Second, expanding the use of videorecorded evidence-in-chief means victims only need to tell their story once. This reform gives them dignity. It gives them a voice.

Third, we will impose the electronic monitoring of high-risk perpetrators. Victims deserve to know that their abuser is being watched, and police deserve to have the ability to intervene before violence escalates. This is not about surveillance for its own sake; it is about prevention, about stopping the next assault before it occurs and about saving lives. Together, these reforms will return more than 265,000 police hours to the front line. That is the equivalent of 134 full-time officers back on the road responding to calls for assistance, and that means faster responses, stronger protection and fewer victims left waiting in fear.

I also want to address the issue of misidentification. While it is rare, even one victim wrongly treated as a perpetrator is one too many. This bill builds in clear safeguards, oversight and review to ensure the person most in need of protection always receives it. For example, 100 per cent of cases involving female respondents are reviewed, and all police interactions in circumstances where police are exercising a power are recorded by officers on their body worn cameras, which also have the capacity to be monitored remotely in real time by supervisors.

The QPS recognises the concerns about misidentification and has adopted processes to make sure that the person most in need of protection obtains the protection they need. This is supported by data which revealed that in 2023-24 police initiated the vast majority of applications for protection orders. In that year 84 per cent of all applications—23,429 applications out of a total 27,857—were lodged by the police; and 97 per cent of those applications were confirmed by the court, with only three per cent being dismissed or withdrawn. This evidence indicates that police overwhelmingly get it right. I am confident that the measures that have been undertaken and the future safeguards in the bill will mitigate the risk of misidentification in relation to domestic and family violence victim-survivors.

As I have indicated, the bill will amend part 6 of the Evidence Act to expand the use of videorecorded evidence statewide and to clarify its use in civil domestic violence proceedings. This will provide all magistrates courts with the option of recorded statements being provided by a victim-survivor of domestic violence instead of a written statement and having that recording presented to the court as their evidence-in-chief instead of their oral testimony.

The framework for electronic monitoring of high-risk domestic and family violence perpetrators as a condition of a domestic violence order will become an additional tool in the fight against violence. Courts may make this condition on an order if satisfied it is necessary or desirable to protect the aggrieved from domestic violence or a named person from associated domestic violence or a named person who is a child from being exposed to domestic violence.

The appropriate use of these reforms will be supported by significant investment in training. This will be centred on identifying the extent of offending and the person most in need of protection. Specifically for the PPD framework, the QPS will invest in a new training package and system changes to facilitate the PPD rollout by 1 January 2026. These reforms will be accompanied by the enhancement of the QPS record-keeping system to appropriately record the PPD forms and processes. Further updates will also be rolled out to allow the electronic service of documents to occur.

It is important to remember that behind every statistic is a real person—a woman finally finding the courage to leave, a child hiding in their room praying the abuse will stop, an elderly Queenslanders suffering in silence. They are the reason we are here today. This bill says to victims: we hear you, we believe you and we will act to keep you safe.

Labor had their chance and they failed. They ignored the warnings from our frontline policing experts. Their distrust and disdain for police left victims wanting. They allowed violence to rise unchecked. For Labor, it was business as usual. For us, it is anything but.

The Crisafulli government is determined to do better with strong laws, real resources and a victim centred approach. The reforms in this bill are not just about legislation. They are about lives. They are about restoring faith in a system that has too often let people down. They are about making sure that when a victim picks up the phone and calls for help that call is answered, and answered with urgency, compassion and actions. That is what Queenslanders expect. That is what victim-survivors deserve and that is what the Crisafulli government will deliver.

I call on those opposite to put victims first by supporting this bill, supporting our police and standing with the thousands of Queenslanders whose lives depend on us getting this right.