




Speech By  
**Janelle Poole**

**MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 August 2025

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

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (12.40 pm): I, too, rise to speak in strong support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. As we all know, domestic and family violence is a scourge in our society and no-one is immune. For 28 years I wore the Queensland Police Service uniform, serving in Townsville proudly. Too many times I stood at the door of a home where violence had shattered trust, safety and family. I have returned from night shifts not being able to sleep after attending domestic violence incidents, having seen the fear in the eyes of the children and the pain in the faces of the women and experiencing the frustration of our police.

I can still to this day clearly remember one night shift, at 2 am, patrolling the streets of Cranbrook, and coming across a lady with her seven-year-old son, walking in the middle of the road, pulling a suitcase behind her. They were fleeing a violent domestic situation at their house and the only protection she felt she had was to flee at 2 am with her son and a case of clothes. Sadly, this story is all too common.

Calls for service for domestic violence top the list of Queensland Police Service responses throughout the state and in Townsville. The numbers tell the story. Within the last decade, calls for service to domestic and family violence incidents increased by more than 218 per cent, a 20 per cent increase every year over the past decade—nearly 200,000 last year—one call for service for domestic and family violence every three minutes.

I, too, wish to pay my deepest respect and thanks to our hardworking men and women of our Queensland Police Service. Our officers working within the Townsville police division, tirelessly working 24/7, provide support to our victim-survivors—our women and our children. What you will not hear is a 'but'. I have listened to those opposite also praise the work of our men and women in blue, but too often it was followed by a 'but'. There is no 'but'. We support our police by providing them the powers and resources they need to do their job and to keep our community safe.

This bill shows the Crisafulli government's commitment to putting victims first, to holding perpetrators to account and to restoring safety where Queenslanders live. Victim safety is at the very heart of these reforms. For the first time, police will be able to issue police protection directions, providing victim-survivors with immediate 12-month protection. These directions mean a police officer attending a scene will be able to render real protections that start straightaway.

We have also built-in safeguards. Higher ranked officers will need to authorise the most restrictive orders, ensuring accountability and oversight. Importantly, there are exclusions where a PPD will not be appropriate, for example, where weapons are involved or where children need the oversight of the court process. These protections are strong, balanced and, above all, designed to keep victims safe.

This bill also introduces a GPS electronic monitoring pilot for high-risk perpetrators. We are also expanding videorecorded evidence-in-chief provisions. Anyone who has ever sat with a victim preparing for court knows how traumatising it can be to relive abuse in the witness box. Allowing recorded evidence makes the process more humane whilst still delivering justice.

Finally, by strengthening the approved provider list, we are ensuring that the intervention programs run across Queensland meet proper standards. We cannot break the cycle of violence if perpetrators are sent to programs that just tick a box and fail to change behaviour.

My colleagues, these reforms are not about headlines, they are about lives. I think of the countless women who told me, 'I just want to be safe and I want my children to be safe,' and for too long that simple ask went unanswered. This bill begins to unravel the decade of neglect left by Labor and delivers the tools that victims' families and our frontline police have been crying out for. As the member for Mundingburra and as someone who has stood on too many front lawns in the middle of the night and during the day trying to reassure victims, I know just how much these changes matter.

I wish to quote from the media conference this morning held by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. A number of community members with particular experience in this area attended the conference, and I note Labor speakers on this legislation criticised the government for not taking into account the view of stakeholders. These following independent quotes from this morning's media conference contradict Labor's accusation. Lloyd Clarke, Hannah Clarke's father, said—

We welcome these new laws coming in. We really think the trackers and the police protection directions will actually put the onus back onto the perpetrator and keep the victims safer ... If these laws would have been in then, hopefully, her and the kids would have been saved.

Sue Clarke, Hannah Clarke's mother, said—

I think the fact that the police can take out the protection order, I think, makes a huge difference ... There's repercussions on the woman for taking out protection orders. So when it's out of their hands, I think it works much safer.

The message from this parliament must be clear: domestic and family violence has no place in Queensland. Perpetrators will be held accountable, victims will be protected and communities will be safer. If you support victim-survivors—our women and children—and our hardworking police, you will also support this bill, no 'buts'. I commend this bill to the House.