




Speech By
Jonty Bush

MEMBER FOR COOPER

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ADJOURNMENT

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (9.18 pm): Last week our community experienced the trauma of losing someone we loved to homicide. I am mindful of sub judice and I will not comment on the justice response, but I want to take the opportunity to recognise Cecilia Webb from The Gap, and extend again my condolences to her loved ones. I wrestle with the contradictory responsibilities I have: recognising, having spoken to Cecilia's friends and family, just how private a woman she was that she would probably not appreciate the attention that her death has brought, while also recognising that Cecilia Webb is sadly the 15th woman murdered in Australia this year already and the obligation that I feel as a leader in our community, a parliamentarian, a mum, a daughter, a victims advocate and a woman to really keep bringing that statistic to attention.

Violence against women is our national shame. I do want to remind the House of the huge reform piece still underway in the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce reports and to encourage the government to please not deviate from those recommendations. The Gap is a really close-knit community and it is a really safe community. Last week highlighted that the reach of domestic and family violence is so great. It reaches into every community, and it brings great shock and incredible grief.

Cecilia was a daughter, a mother, a sister and a friend. She was a highly respected healthcare worker, and students of hers from Hong Kong attended the community vigil that we held for Cecilia on Friday and spoke about the impact she has had on their professional lives. She was a beloved neighbour. I want to extend my thoughts and sympathies to the neighbours, some of whom were witness to the aftermath of the event. Violent events like these do cause ripples in communities and those ripples have been felt by many.

While this event will and has changed us, it certainly will not define us—a community that cares for and looks out for one another through good times and bad. I would like to place on record my thanks for Inspector Corey Allen from the Queensland Police Service and all of the officers from The Gap who continue to impress me with their care for our community. I also thank the services who attended our vigil—VictimConnect, the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit, DVConnect and the Brisbane Domestic Violence Advocacy Service. I also acknowledge Reverend Ann Edwards from St Mark's Anglican Church who shared some beautiful words with us all on the day. Ann continues to be such a friend and ally of mine in our community. She is an extraordinary woman.

The events of last week encourage me to remind my residents that there is a parliamentary inquiry into elder abuse occurring at this time. Submissions close next Thursday, 10 April at 5 pm. For those folk who might be experiencing any form of family abuse and harm, please know that I understand the shame and the temptation to continue to suffer in silence. That is what violence does and we do not need to give into that. There is help available. I would encourage people to reach out and get the support that they are entitled to and deserve. Vale, Cecilia Webb.

(Time expired)