




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (12.24 pm): With regard to this domestic and family violence bill, every speaker I have heard make a contribution to this debate has come with the best of intentions; that is, defending Queenslanders who are suffering from domestic and family violence. I am encouraged not only by many of the conversations but also by the contributions of many of the MPs—not all—today. In particular, I was in the chair yesterday listening to the member for Keppel and we had a conversation this morning about the good work he is doing in his community.

In 2008 I chose to become a White Ribbon ambassador. I continue doing work in that regard, currently raising funds through the Red Rose Foundation to install a Red Bench at Ferry Grove State High School. I commend the students for acting with me to make that happen and raise valuable funds for that organisation. The member for Greenslopes also has a Red Bench in his community. We have heard many examples throughout this debate about the good work MPs are doing, but that stops when you walk through this door. This should be above politics. Domestic and family violence is an insidious disease which we all know is throughout our communities. It is incumbent on us as legislators, the people who represent our communities and our constituents, to do away with this. That is my objective and my path, and it has been since I have been involved in seeing the back of domestic and family violence.

People are affected by it in so many areas. It was only last Friday night that I went out with an organisation from my electorate of Ferry Grove, the Northwest Community Group, which looks after homeless people in our parks and communities. We went over to Musgrave Park. On the first occasion we were there we spoke to homeless people from all different backgrounds. There were people who were escaping domestic and family violence, people dealing with drug addiction and people from all sorts of backgrounds. It was great to sit down with them and listen to their stories. Later on we went to Roma Street and it shocked me to the core. There was a 12-year-old girl being looked after by Rosies, an organisation that was here this morning courtesy of the member for Lytton. These people should not have to be on the streets escaping domestic and family violence.

Paul, who is with the Northwest Community Group, got a call about a woman back in Musgrave Park escaping domestic and family violence. She had been assaulted by her partner and could barely talk, let alone eat any solid food. Fortunately, Paul took the call to Micah Projects and got her accommodation off the streets and out of Musgrave Park for three nights. He went to KFC and bought her mashed potato and gravy because, as a victim escaping domestic and family violence, that is the only thing she could eat.

I commend the frontline people who deal with this on a regular basis. I have always been a strong advocate of our men and women in blue. Being from a family of police, I understand the roles and the hard tasks they perform.

The committee report delved into possible misidentification and the unintended consequences that may result from PPDs. The committee heard stories from experts with regard to this particular aspect of the bill. It is incumbent on us to listen to experts who have skin in the game and understand what is happening out in the streets. It is incumbent on all of us to listen, take that onboard and consider the recommendations and amendments that the shadow minister tabled.

I want to refer to some of the organisations. The Women's Legal Service raised with the committee—

... misidentification often happens due to a lack of information and a need to respond in the moment. I suppose that will be crystallised even more when that response in the moment then becomes a 12-month order.

QCROSS, which is probably the principal stakeholder in this area, indicated—

... the consequences of misidentification can be severe and potentially fatal.

We do not want people falling through the cracks if they are misidentified. We need to ensure the right person is picked as the perpetrator.

With that short contribution, I encourage everyone in this chamber to look at that report and the expert evidence that has been provided by those who have skin in the game and know what is happening on our streets. It is incumbent on us as legislators to make sure we deliver justice to victims through the right legislation that gets this insidious disease out of our communities.