



Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (11.50 am): I rise to speak to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and, in particular, to support the opposition amendments that were introduced in this place during the second reading. They are really important and considered amendments that speak to the reservations that stakeholders and experts voiced through the committee process.

The committee process heard that in 2023-24 the Queensland Police Service responded to 192,287 domestic and family violence occurrences, with some police stating that domestic and family violence made up 90 per cent of their workload. Of course, that volume creates pressures for Queensland police and I absolutely acknowledge that. I also acknowledge that the police are not the only service agency through the system. There is considerable pressure throughout the entire ecosystem. Another point that I want to be really clear on is encouraging Queenslanders to speak out and to seek assistance if they find themselves in domestic and family violence situations. While we are absolutely united on the fact that we would like to see fewer victims of domestic and family violence, we do not want to see people suffering in silence simply so that statistics can look better.

At the heart of one person's workload pressure is a victim-survivor, and that needs to be the primary consideration of all reforms. It is not just the opposition saying this; it is experts right through the sector. It should be alarming to all of us in this place that so many victim-survivors and their advocacy agencies have spoken against elements of this legislative reform. That should be enough to drive a response. It should be enough for this government to incorporate their changes. Good reform needs to be based in expert and evidence-based advice. It is clear that this legislation misses the mark. If we strip away the politically charged barbs in the contributions of those opposite, I genuinely believe that every member of this place wants a safer community with fewer victim-survivors, not more.

When a bipartisan approach to this topic was prevalent in the state, reforms were driven through content experts and victim-survivor informed approaches, not election commitments, not slogans and not workforce efficiency measures. This government cannot be genuine in saying that they have put victims first only to silence their voices, which is exactly what this legislation does. It silences the voices of victim-survivors. How can it not when so many of them are expressing serious and legitimate concerns with this reform and the government is just dismissing that?

Mr McDonald: Where's the evidence?

Ms BOYD: It is in the committee report, which I recommend the member for Lockyer reads. That is where the evidence is. The evidence has been provided to the committee by experts. The fact that government members are right now interjecting and asking where the evidence is should be proof that a number of government members are simply not informed about what experts and victim-survivors are saying. Legitimate concerns have been raised in this place.

Ms Camm: He's a former police officer.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjection and the shaking of the head by the minister responsible for this. She says, 'He's a police officer' and shakes her head in condemnation. I absolutely acknowledge that the member for Lockyer was a serving police officer. However, why should it be the case in this argument or debate or the consideration of this topic that one person's voice is louder than others? Why can we not have a minister in this state who not only has the intestinal fortitude to take on all of the different views and come up with balanced legislation but also is able to contain herself from gaslighting the sector and gaslighting the opposition around the work that she is doing.

Ms CAMM: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the member's comments. I ask her to withdraw.

Ms McMILLAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member on her feet is simply referring to the committee report and the evidence that has been provided to it.

Ms BOYD: Mr Deputy Speaker, if it assists you, I am happy to withdraw and move on.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member, I note your withdrawal. I say to the House that I do not need the assistance of the floor in managing the chamber. I will hear points of order in silence.

Ms BOYD: As I said, for a long time there was a bipartisan approach to domestic and family violence reforms in this state. There was a genuine good-faith commitment from both sides of the House. It was not something that was politicised or weaponised until that approach met the political approval of the LNP, which started doing that for their own purposes. No-one wins through that approach, least of all victim-survivors. This topic is too serious to be treated as a slogan.

It cannot be denied that there are inherent complexities in domestic and family violence situations. The response to this scourge is also inherently complex. Through the submissions to the committee it is clear that stakeholders in their scores identified risks and dangers in the PPDs. Through the approach of this government it is also clear that the voices of sector experts and victim-survivors are being silenced. They are choosing politics over experts.

Ms McMillan: There's a pattern.

Ms BOYD: There is absolutely a pattern; I take that interjection from the shadow minister. Members on this side of the House have spoken at length about the dangers in this legislation. Forty-five submitters to the committee process expressed their concern. That is a staggering amount of opposition to and concern about what this legislation proposes for the state of Queensland. I am bewildered that in this place right now the shadow minister is putting forward sensible and measured amendments that the sector supports and they are being shouted down by those opposite.

I want to remind the House of what those expert voices are saying, because I stand with them and I want their voices to be amplified. I want their voices to be the beacon for reform in this space. One thing I know for sure is that those experts know best, not an LNP politician. This is a dangerous pattern of behaviour that we are seeing time and time again with this LNP government. It needs to be called out. It is certainly something that experts in the sector are seeing. They are seeing it in the domestic and family violence prevention sector, they are seeing it in the health sector and they are seeing it right across the spectrum. I want to make sure that we are holding the government to account and amplifying those expert voices. We should be listening to them. We should be developing our legislation and the approach for Queensland with them because they are the experts for a reason. We will form the best legislation when it is informed by expert advice, not slogans and not politics.

Reforms in this space should be victim-survivor centred, not based on efficiency. We should be striving to have the best trauma informed approaches on the front line, not the quickest. During the last meeting I had in my office with a victim-survivor of domestic and family violence, I was told about an encounter she had had when she was reporting the crime. They said, 'We'll have to check whether a man can actually rape his wife.' That is the kind of modern-day response that people in my community are receiving right now.

I want to make sure that in this state of Queensland we are doing better. Experts are saying to us that there is danger in streamlining the framework in the way that this bill proposes, that it will continue to get worse, not better. We should be striving to do better. We should be striving to support our victim-survivors in this state. We should be striving each and every day to have safer communities.

That is why I support the opposition amendments in relation to this bill. I urge each and every member of this House in good faith to read through those amendments and compare them with what experts told us throughout the committee process because they are aligned. I urge members of the House to give consideration in good faith to these amendments and to support them. They will save lives.

In my final comments—they are last but by no means ever least—I want to acknowledge the phenomenal humans in my community who are on the front line responding to the scourge of domestic and family violence. I want to acknowledge Holly and her team at CADA and the PRADO team that sits in Petrie Police Station. I want to acknowledge the whole of the sector, particularly those who have been told the minister has not had time to meet with them yet. We see you. We hear you. We are supporting what you say. Victim-survivors should always be paramount to our legislative approach, and it is a shame that they are not. I also acknowledge our police.