



Rebecca Young

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

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DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mrs YOUNG (Redlands—LNP) (11.45 am): Today I rise to speak not only as the local member for Redlands but also as a mother, a wife, daughter and friend who is deeply committed to ensuring our community is safe, supported and resilient. I am proud to be part of the Crisafulli government delivering reforms that put victims and their families first for the first time in a long time. The Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 is a significant step forward for Queensland and for Redlands. It introduces practical, targeted reforms designed to protect survivors, support families and give our frontline police officers the tools they need to protect the most vulnerable.

The bill establishes a framework for police protection directions, allowing officers to provide immediate protection to victims without having to wait for court proceedings. That means someone in Redlands facing danger can be protected instantly and police can act swiftly without unnecessary delays. We are also introducing an electronic monitoring pilot for high-risk DFV perpetrators. GPS devices will operate 24/7, with alerts monitored to keep victims safe. Victims and named persons will also have access to safety devices, providing both reassurance and real protection.

I want to acknowledge the feedback I have received directly from survivors in Redlands. One victim told me that court-imposed monitoring is the right step forward because it will make it easier to prosecute breaches rather than relying on impossible evidence like CCTV footage. That feedback is powerful. This bill delivers balance: it provides immediate safeguards, equips police with stronger tools and ensures victims and families have a louder, stronger voice in the system. It is legislation that turns concern into action and uncertainty into protection. For survivors it means safety they can see, feel and rely upon.

Another key reform is the expansion of the videorecorded evidence-in-chief framework across all magistrates courts in Queensland. This reduces the need for victims to repeatedly recount traumatic experiences in court, improving their wellbeing and strengthening prosecutions. A survivor from Redlands told me in respect to adult victim-survivors, 'VREC would definitely help simplify and speed up the process of giving a statement.' In her situation, the statement provided was over 20 pages long and took several weeks to collate, including reviewing for accuracy and reliving the domestic violence events that took place over 20 years. She went on to share that despite the support of the police officers involved it was still one of the most difficult processes that she has ever been through. Being able to provide the statement via video would have been helpful and could also help with humanising victim-survivors through the court process.

These reforms will change lives. I have seen it firsthand in Redlands. I have met with organisations like Maybanke who support women and children fleeing violence every single day. I have also met Liz, a dedicated domestic and family violence support worker at the Cleveland Police Station. For many victims Liz is the first person to listen, to believe them and walk with them through safety and recovery.

With police being able to use tools like PPDs and electronic monitoring, and with support workers like Liz standing beside victims, we are ensuring help arrives sooner and stronger protections are in place when they are needed most. Our government has invested \$24 million to place more domestic and family violence support workers, just like Liz, in police stations across Queensland. Beyond DV hope hubs have also been expanded, offering three new recovery centres where victims can rebuild their lives safely.

This is about people. It is about victims and ensuring they are put first. It is about making sure that victims and their loved ones are protected immediately and that perpetrators feel real consequences. The reforms we are delivering now—police protection directions, GPS monitoring, VREC expansion—build on the landmark coercive control laws passed earlier this year. They are a continuation of our commitment to keep victims safe and provide meaningful support.

Survivors have reminded us of something else: while this bill rightly strengthens protections and provides a faster response, our ultimate goal must be prevention. Real safety comes not only from responding quickly to violence but also from reducing its occurrence in the first place. The challenge before us is to build stronger communities, educate our young people, hold perpetrators accountable early and provide every Queenslander with the opportunity to thrive in a life free from violence. That is work we will do and I will continue to drive forward.

Today, I thank all of the advocates, service providers and community members in Redlands who speak up, stand up and work tirelessly to end domestic violence. I also thank the minister, Amanda Camm, and her team for the work they have done to bring forward this important legislation. Their courage inspires these reforms and their strength ensures they are implemented in a way that truly serves the people who need them most. Together, we will continue to deliver communities where families are safe, survivors are supported and every child and adult can thrive without fear.