



Speech By  
**Hon. Ros Bates**


**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2025

**MOTION**

**Safer Families, Safer Communities**

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (11.39 am): I rise to support this motion regarding the Crisafulli LNP government's Safer Families, Safer Communities plan. This motion reflects our government's commitment to a fresh start for Queensland, ensuring domestic violence offenders are no longer allowed to walk the streets freely while their victims live in fear. Before the election, we said we would deliver a plan to restore safety in communities across Queensland, and we are doing exactly that. The Crisafulli LNP government's Safer Families, Safer Communities plan includes the rollout of 500 GPS trackers for high-risk offenders, monitoring their location and sounding an alarm if the offender is in close proximity to the victim-survivor. The Crisafulli LNP government is working tirelessly to stop domestic and family violence perpetrators in their tracks.

Modelled after the highly successful Tasmanian program, our new GPS tracker initiative will provide practical support to victim-survivors of domestic and family violence by seeking to deter such violence before it occurs. As a result of this initiative, those who commit these disgraceful acts are now on notice. There will be nowhere to hide and nowhere to run. The Crisafulli LNP government has been clear there will be real consequences for actions under this government, and the Crisafulli LNP government is getting on with the job of providing the courts and our police with the tools they need to keep Queenslanders safe with the first 150 GPS trackers to be issued against high-risk perpetrators by the end of the year. These trackers will be monitored 24/7 and will be available as a condition of a domestic violence order. These trackers send a strong message to perpetrators of domestic violence: the Crisafulli LNP government will hold you to account and we will always put the rights of victims before perpetrators.

We are also committed to providing more help directly to those affected by domestic and family violence, which is why the Crisafulli LNP government's Safer Families, Safer Communities plan will double the capacity of DVConnect's women's line and men's line through the creation of a North Queensland hub. DVConnect's women's line and men's line are both crucial community resources in the effort to combat the scourge of domestic and family violence which is why our government has committed to this major funding boost.

We are also expanding Beyond DV's hope hubs with the addition of three new recovery centres to provide social, health, housing, legal and financial support in a setting which is easy and inconspicuous to access for those impacted by domestic and family violence.

It is no secret that I have personal experience with domestic and family violence, as I have shared in this House before, and have long been an advocate against all forms of domestic and family violence. Domestic and family violence does not discriminate. Its impact is both significant and long-lasting, and it is far too prevalent in our state. I am proud to be part of the Crisafulli LNP government which is taking swift, decisive actions to address this scourge and hold perpetrators of these heinous acts to account.

I note that this government has already established a working group with victim-survivors of domestic, family and sexual violence to identify gaps in the system left by the former Labor government which put the safety of Queenslanders at risk. This working group will also provide invaluable insight, as we work towards better prevention and intervention strategies.

I urge those opposite to put the safety of Queenslanders above politics and join our government in supporting this motion. The Crisafulli LNP government's Safer Families, Safer Communities plan is an important, proactive step in combatting the scourge of domestic and family violence in Queensland. Our government will always stand up for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence, and we will continue to work tirelessly to restore safety to all Queenslanders wherever they may live. I again mention the names of some amazing women on the Gold Coast whose mothers joined a mothers club that no-one ever wanted to join: Shelsea Schilling, Tara Brown and Michelle Beattie, from Hearts of Purple, who has been a vocal voice on the Gold Coast and across Queensland for domestic and family violence. Thank you.