




Speech By
Hon. Samuel O'Connor
MEMBER FOR BONNEY

Record of Proceedings, 28 August 2025

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (4.15 pm): I rise in support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, an important and overdue step to put victims first, hold perpetrators to account and restore safety for Queenslanders in their own homes. The scale of the challenge is clear. In the last decade the number of calls for service to domestic and family violence incidents has risen by 218 per cent. For too long under the former government victims were left waiting hours, sometimes days or longer, for protection. This bill shows that the Crisafulli government is taking a different approach, one where the safety of victims and children is front and centre.

For me, this is not just a debate on policy; it is deeply personal to my part of the Gold Coast. In April 2021 my community was shattered by the loss of Arundel mum Kelly Wilkinson in the most horrific of ways. We hear about domestic violence incidents far too often, but when it happens in your suburb, on a street that you drive past every day, to a mum whom you have seen walking her kids to school, it really hits differently. The vigil that we held soon after Kelly's murder is one of the most powerful things I have ever been part of in my time as a local member of parliament. I had the tragic honour of reading out the statement on behalf of Kelly's family and I vowed then that I would do everything I could to make sure that her tragedy led to change. This new approach will do just that.

Earlier this month I was proud to again back the Kelly Wilkinson Foundation's 'Kelly's Long Lunch'. I acknowledge Minister Camm, who was there to support this event that raises funds to help secondary victims of domestic violence homicide. Since launching a year ago, the foundation has already helped 18 children who have gone through the unimaginable, just like Kelly's did. I want to thank Kelly's sister Danielle, her partner Rhys, their entire family and everyone who is helping to create change in Kelly's name. The reality for Kelly's family in the aftermath of her death was overwhelming. Danielle and Rhys suddenly found themselves raising eight children in the one household—Kelly's three alongside their five. They are nothing short of an inspiration in the way that they tackle the challenges of life together. Danielle's advocacy has also been recently recognised, with her being invited by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice to join the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council. This appointment is a testament to her tireless work ensuring that the experiences of secondary victims are front and centre. Having Danielle there in the room will be so important to shape meaningful change in our justice system.

What we are debating today is all about ensuring other families do not have to endure what Kelly's has. New police protection directions will allow frontline police to provide immediate 12-month protection to victim-survivors when they need it most. They give officers the authority to swiftly impose conditions that keep victims safe, whether that means no-contact rules, an order to leave or cool-down periods. Importantly, strict safeguards are built in: higher ranking approval is required for stronger conditions, children are excluded to ensure court oversight and cases involving weapons or repeat

offending are escalated directly to the courts. These are practical reforms that balance the urgency these situations require and their sensitive nature.

The bill also delivers on our election commitment to pilot GPS monitoring of high-risk perpetrators. Up to 150 devices will be rolled out in the initial pilot to ensure those with a proven history of violence can be tracked and restricted from going anywhere near their victims. This is about more than just punishment; it is about prevention. Our changes give the courts the ability to set clear boundaries backed by technology so that victims can live with greater confidence that they are being protected. Victim-survivors will also have the option of carrying their own GPS enabled safety devices to add an extra layer of assurance.

We know that the court process itself can retraumatise victims. That is why this bill expands the videorecorded evidence-in-chief framework. Victim-survivors will be able to record their statement once and use it in proceedings, reducing the need to retell painful experiences over and over again. Our changes will make this process more flexible, more victim-centric and easier for police to implement.

This bill delivers the start of a better and more compassionate response to addressing domestic and family violence in Queensland. I commend the ministers who have worked on this and I commend the bill to the House.