

## The QPU Make DFV a Crime Campaign

### Benefits of a stand-alone DFV Offence for frontline policing.

- **Improved Police Efficiency:**
  - Reduces time spent on DVO applications and court appearances.
  - Allows police to focus on core duties: investigation, evidence gathering, victim support.
  - Enables quicker response times and proactive policing.
  - Reduces community fear of crime due to a visible police presence returning.
  - The estimated equivalent of more than 600 experienced police officers can be returned to frontline policing for proactive patrols and calls for service that police currently can't get to.

Since the beginning of this year, 31 General Duties Queensland Police Officers have resigned from the QPS as of 17 February 2025. The overwhelming feedback given to the QPU by these departing officers is they have 'DFV' fatigue and the overwhelming amount of DFV callouts stops them from undertaking the other important policing duties they should be doing to protect all Queenslanders.

Under current DFV laws, without a willing complainant, the first act of DFV reported to police does not proceed as a criminal offence. This is unacceptable, and the law is failing victims. The only option available to police without a complainant is for the investigating officer to make a domestic violence protection order application.

The paperwork, red tape, statistic gathering and bureaucracy around making, prosecuting and serving applications means calls for service, including other DFV jobs and serious crimes, do not receive a timely response. There is a tangible link that this could result in lives being lost.

By creating a standalone offence, every victim will have the protection of a standard DFV protection order at all times, whether they are a resident in Queensland or visiting. Police will be able to act without the need for a complaint; thus, reducing the risk of retribution to a complainant. We want to change a system which allows perpetrators a 'free first hit'.

By protecting victims through an offence, the need for applications for orders with only standard conditions is removed. It also prevents perpetrators from making cross applications and using the system to further traumatise and abuse the victim.

Safeguards will be introduced to protect against misidentification of victims and for self-defence. Similarly, to ensure matters are exempted where it is deemed there is no public interest in prosecuting, police will have the statutory discretion to refer the parties to specialist service providers. A common example would include two brothers having a dispute at a family celebration, where there is no history of DFV, no power imbalance, and no desire by either party for police intervention.

The offence will be supported by **Police Protection Directions**. These will be issued on the civil balance of probabilities standard and will be able to be enforced immediately. They will be able to include additional conditions, such as ouster, cooling down no contact. They will be similar to the current PPNs, however, the onus will be on the perpetrator to elect within 28 days of issue, to go to court; otherwise the direction remains in place for 12 months. There will be an administrative scheme to allow for amendments, as well as an avenue for applications to the Court.

These two initiatives are to be supported by permitting the use of BWC footage in lieu of the evidence in chief of complainants and witnesses. This will be similar to what occurs now for s93A interviews with child victims. This initiative will reduce the trauma for victims by not requiring them to relive their experience during evidence in chief.

There are other proposals too, including treating serial offenders who victimise multiple partners in a similar way to sex offenders, where police will be able to undertake random checks of their computers and electronic devices, and where they will be banned from nightclubs (using the existing systems for liquor banning notices) and using online dating platforms.

Please sign the petition at: **[MakeDVaCrime.com.au](https://www.makedvacrime.com.au)**