

Classes need to be offered

COURTS should force Bundaberg domestic violence abusers to attend behaviour change classes.

That's the call from family abuse experts, who say many perpetrators are manipulating the DVO system because they don't fear the legal consequences of not complying with orders.

NewsRegional research shows our police are under the pump applying for thousands more domestic violence orders compared to five years ago, while facing a massive increase in breaches as abusers flout the law.

In the Wide Bay Burnett police district, which includes Bundaberg and the Fraser Coast, DVO applications jumped 36.9% between 2012-2013 and 2016-17.

Over the same period there was a 119.7% increase in breaches of DVOs.

Over the five years, local cops applied for 8084 domestic violence orders and recorded 5404 breaches.

Women's Legal Service Queensland and the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research representatives said they would like to see a greater

spotlight on changing perpetrator attitudes.

Queensland courts can order offenders to complete behaviour change programs but it is not mandatory and it rarely happened, the experts said.

WLSQ solicitor Rachel Neil helps Bundy women in domestic violence crisis.

Ms Neil said police needed evidence breaches occurred otherwise courts would toss cases out.

The government will spend \$7.67 million on perpetrator programs this financial year, including programs for Bundaberg.