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- Moyne Gazette
- National
- World

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1. [Home](#)
2. [News](#)
3. [National](#)


February 27 2020 - 2:36PM

## Proposals to tackle Qld domestic violence

- Michael Doyle

[National](#)



 Calls for domestic violence reforms followed an outpouring of grief over the Clarke family murder.

Renewed focus on the scourge of domestic violence has followed the murder of Hannah Clarke and her three children by their father in Brisbane.

## WHAT SPARKED THIS?

- \* Hannah Clarke, 31, and her three children were murdered by their father in the Brisbane suburb of Camp Hill on February 19.
- \* Their father, Rowan Baxter, set alight the car they were in. He died beside the road with a self-inflicted injury.
- \* An outpouring of grief from the community was evident at a vigil held five days after the attack, attended by more than 1000 people.

## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

- \* The Women's Legal Service Queensland called for immediate reform around domestic and family violence.
- \* Calls were made to outlaw controlling behaviour and psychological dominance.

## WHAT IS THE STATE OPPOSITION'S PROPOSAL?

- \* The maximum jail term for strangulation should be doubled to 14 years, bringing the penalty in line with the offence of grievous bodily harm.
- \* New laws on "coercive control" by making an offence to commit acts which make people feel controlled, scared or dependent on another person.
- \* The Women's Legal Service would receive an extra \$1 million and another \$1 million would be made available for other services.
- \* Families fleeing domestic violence will be eligible for one-off payments of up to \$2000.

## WHAT COMES NEXT?

- \* Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said she was happy to work with the opposition to tackle the problem.



- \* Out of respect for the Clarke family, Ms Palaszczuk said she would not be making any comment on the matter until after the funeral.

*Australian Associated Press*



## RECOMMENDED

Letters: 'How wonderful to see history repeating' — Wait! No! There's a Non-Profit Healthcare Provider?