



Brent MICKELBERG MP

Member for **Buderim**

Media Release

15 April 2021

Brent Mickelberg MP, State Member for Buderim, said “A mobile phone is a device that many of us take for granted, but many victims of domestic violence are often in a situation where they are unable to call for help”.

Local Buderim businessman, Mr Ashton Wood, said “It is exactly twelve months ago since I set up DV Safe Phone, after speaking with a former Police Senior Sergeant about the spike in domestic violence here in Australia”.

Mr Wood said, “I was informed that domestic violence had spiked during the COVID-19 lockdowns and I was shocked to learn that one of the first items to be smashed or removed from a victim of domestic violence is their mobile phone, leaving them with no way to call for help”.

“I offered up my spare mobile phones at the time and was informed that my old phones could “save a life”.

“I knew that many of my friends and business colleagues also had spare unused mobile phones, so I asked the former Police Senior Sergeant how many more phones they needed and I was advised that “you will never get us enough phones””.

“As a result, DV Safe Phone was formed with the help of King IT who immediately offered their Queensland stores as local phone drop-off locations and their service of checking that donated phones had full functionality. King IT also ensure that the user information is removed from the phones before they are given to domestic violence and law enforcement agencies, to pass on to victims of domestic violence” Mr Wood said.

Mr Wood said “Jeep Australia was next to join the cause and offered all Jeep dealerships Australia-wide as drop-off locations. They are covering the costs of posting the received phones to us here on the Sunshine Coast”.

Mr Mickelberg said “After meeting with Ashton, I was impressed with how the DV Safe Phone program is helping victims of domestic violence. Together with my LNP colleague, Amanda Camm, Shadow Minister for Child Protection, Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, we are keen to support this important program and help make it much easier for people to donate their old unused mobile phones”.

“As representatives of our local communities, it makes sense to provide more collection points for these vital items, in the knowledge that these phones may provide a much-needed lifeline,” Mr Mickelberg said.

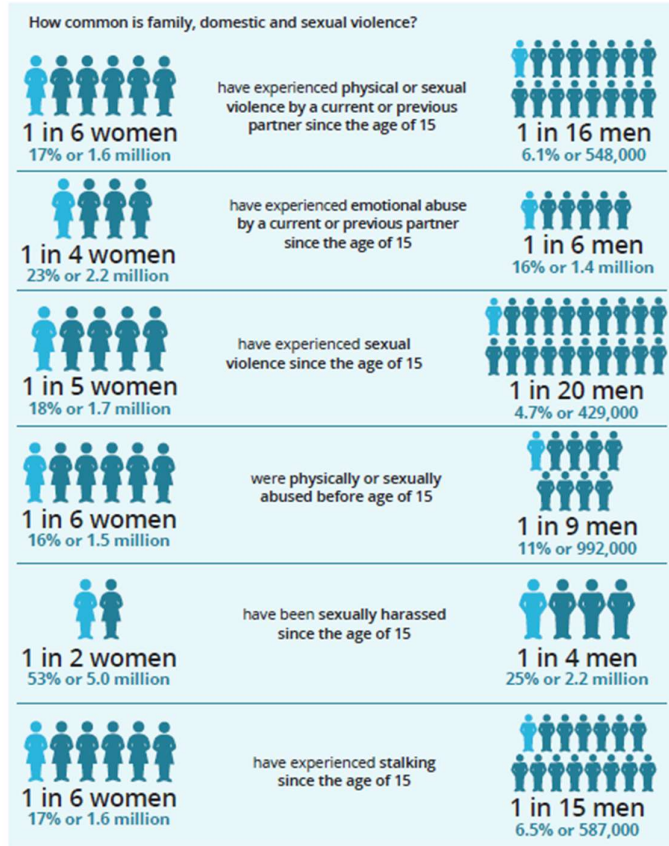
Local residents can now donate their unused mobile phones in the DV Safe Phone receptacle, located in the Buderim Electorate Office, Suite 4, 102 Burnett Street, Buderim.

Let's get Queensland working again

DV Safe Phone also accepts phones sent by post to: PO Box 1440 Mooloolaba QLD 4557.

Ends.

Statistics sourced from the Family, Domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story 2019. Australian Government, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2019



DV
Safe Phone

Your Old Phone Could Save A Life

DONATE PHONES. DONATE FUNDS. FUNDRAISE.

