SPEAQ Forum – Cocktail Dinner Address – 23 October 2025

Good Evening everyone,

I want to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of Meanjin where we're meeting tonight. I pay respect to Yaggera and Turrbal peoples and their elders, and any First Nations people here with us tonight. We've got the privilege tonight of coming together and connecting over food – a tradition that has existed on these lands for 65,000+ years. A bit different on a roof top bar! But let's keep the tradition in mind, sharing a meal together, discussing what connects us, working through differences, talking about how we centre community in our decisions and actions.

Thank you to the Deputy Director-General, Reform Implementation Office, Department of Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Child Safety, for joining us tonight and speaking on behalf of the Honourable Amanda Camm, Minister for Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, who could not be with us. Before I hand the mic over to you to say a few words, I also want to thank your colleagues from the Queensland government joining us tonight including Amanda Medew, Rebecca Shearman, and Kylie Mathewson. We really appreciate the Government valuing relationship building with our network and our forum attendees and presenters this year.

This year's theme is *We're in this together: Meaningful relationship as the basis for effective practice in DFV accountability and intervention work.* So, I want to introduce you to and thank our invited Forum presenters who are with us tonight, Prof. Donna Chung, Tori Cooke, Hala Abdelnour, Rodney Vlais, Alan Jenkins, and Tim Kelly. We also have members from the Forum Organising Committee here, Belinda (Brisbane Domestic Violence Service), Paul (Anglicare), Tori (Pandora Projects), Jen (UnitingCare) & Skye (Brisbane Youth Service). And in addition to Paul and I, from our SPEAQ Steering Committee, Michelle (from DVConnect), Lou (from Brisbane Youth Service) are here tonight. And I'm sure you know Phillip Ripper, CEO from our friends at NTV, thank you for travelling to join us, Phillip. We've got lots of our member organisations represented here, so everyone enjoy and mingle!

A huge thank you to our Forum sponsors WorkUP QLD and CQU's QCDFVR, as well as our auspicing organisation DVNQ and ChallengeDV for their ongoing support of network. These forums create an opportunity for passionate people to gather to talk about matters that we're passionate about – ending domestic and family violence, increasing victim-survivor safety, increasing accountability of those who cause harm, and providing them with access to services and programs that create opportunities to change. Our Pre-forum Workshops with Rodney & Alan, and Day 1 of the Forum today was fantastic, and I cannot wait to continue the conversations tonight and tomorrow.

I want to now reintroduce the Honourable Amanda Camm, to say a few words.

Thank you,

Dr Brodie Evans
SPEAQ Secretary

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