

YOUR SAY

The best reader comments from print and online

How do we really stop DV cycle?



MY SAY
FRAZER PEARCE
EDITOR

THE unprecedented focus on tackling domestic violence will make a difference, but it won't stop it.

This type of offending, often well hidden, has been going on forever, but because of a number of terrible murders our leaders have taken significant steps to investigate the problem with the end goal to find a solution.

This is the most complex of issues because it involves psychologically damaged people on both sides of the DV fence - the victims and the perpetrators. The public rallies and slogans help reinforce the non-violence philosophy most of us grew up with - but it won't change those where domestic violence is ingrained and normal.

The report *Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland* has many commendable initiatives, but I can't see anything to end the generational cycle that plagues us. The best it can do is to reduce it.

I think the most effective way to unwind the DV cycle is to invest the resources required to make the critical intervention at the entry point of domestic violence - and that is early childhood abuse and neglect.

How many of the 40 Rockhampton juvenile delinquents currently going through the revolving door of crime/court/ bail/foster homes/corrective orders will make good dads who respect their partners?

How many of the current crop of abusive partners have poor literacy levels, juvenile crime backgrounds and poor prospects because of their neglected, abusive upbringing and poor/or no education?

This is not a 10-year solution, it is generational and until our leaders find the courage to take one huge step, the violence won't end.

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Letters of less than 250 words will be given priority. Include your full name, daytime phone number and suburb for verification. The Morning Bulletin reserves the right to edit letters.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Backpacker Tax has dragged on too long

THE Coalition's pitiful bungling of the Backpacker Tax has dragged on now for 18 months.

That's 18 months in which Australia's international tourism reputation has been severely tarnished and farmers have been left to worry how they will harvest their crops.

As Queensland's Agriculture Minister I have no doubt that producers will continue to suffer the consequences of this catastrophic failure.

So will the accommodation providers, cafe owners, shopkeepers and bar owners in regional communities throughout Queensland whose businesses are supported by backpackers both through the labour they provide and the cash they spend. Backpackers don't send dollars home. They spend

every cent in Australia. They work to support and extend their stay.

This monumental farce was caused by Joe Hockey's failure to consult with the agriculture and tourism sectors before announcing a 32.5% tax on foreigners taking working holidays.

And it has been compounded by the deafening silence from Nationals MPs like Michelle Landry and Senator Matthew Canavan.

Their failure to speak-up in the party room in support of those who rely on backpackers condemns them.

It is clear that the Senate is set on an internationally competitive tax rate of 10.5% for backpackers.

It is a sensible rate that will generate tax income for the government while ensuring Australia is an



CITRUS PICKING: Backpackers hit the trees when the fruit is at its best, but producers are getting anxious over the impasse with the Backpacker Tax in Federal Parliament.

attractive destination for foreigners on working holiday visas.

My message to Senator Canavan and Mrs Landry is clear. Get off the fence and

do what you know is right for the constituencies you represent. Do the right thing for agriculture and tourism in Queensland by starting to look after the interests of

growers and regional economies.

Anything less would be entirely unsatisfactory.

— **Bill Byrne MP,**
Member for Rockhampton

Some solar bonus rebate anomalies

I WAS somewhat surprised to read in the latest Ergon Energy stakeholders' report that under the Queensland Government's Solar Bonus Scheme over \$110.4 million was credited to customers on the 44 cent rebate scheme, for renewable energy they exported back to the grid in 2015-16.

And this accounted for approx 63% of the total customers on the Solar Bonus Scheme, with the remaining 37% balance of customers, only receiving up to the 1/7/16, a meagre 6.35 cents rebate or about 14% of the 44 cent rebate.

This generous rebate of 44 cents per kilowatt hour to

“Another 300 metres would have sealed what is probably the most dangerous corner in the Livingstone shire.”

customers who were astute enough, and who could afford to invest in the 44 cent scheme at the time, will benefit them for another 12 years until 2028.

But many business proposals that seem too good to be true, 'free lunches' if you like, generally come with

trade-offs, and in this instance it's a massive trade-off cost of \$1,324.8 million (\$110.4m multiplied by 12) to government, and dare I say taxpayers over the next twelve years.

Meanwhile the latest meagre 7.45 cents per kilowatt hour rebate, will be funded by the customers electricity retailer and in our case Ergon Energy, through I guess, cost reflective electricity tariffs.

— **John Blanchfield**
Frenchville

Livingstone's most dangerous corner

THE cars roar off the bitumen onto the extremely dusty gravel at 100km/hr and past the group of houses. The LSC just

resealed 1.5km of perfectly good bitumen and once again did not take it an extra 100m to take it past the group of houses.

Another 300m would have sealed what is probably the most dangerous corner in the Livingstone shire, the corner of Mt Chalmers Rd and Venture Rd.

Following my last letter about the dangers of the corner, a sharp corner at the bottom of a steep hill on a gravel road and the cars bring the gravel down the hill and it builds up on the corner making it an extremely dangerous situation.

At least six cars have come to grief in the last two years, the council graded the corner and made steep

embankments around the outside of the corner. It is still a sharp corner at the bottom of a steep hill on a gravel road, the next car that loses control on the corner will roll down the embankment. Someone will probably get killed.

The only way to make the corner safe is to bitumen the road and take the loose gravel out of the equation. Last week the grader actually went around the corner to fix the botch up they made in Venture Rd last time they graded it and did not take the built-up gravel off the corner, it is getting deep so the next accident won't be long now.

Council bosses and staff must drive around with their eyes closed or else

FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DAYS LIKE THESE WITH HAIDEE

Donald Trump is not a cause



THE FRENCH LESSON
DAVID FRENCH

Trumpeting about Trump is the latest craze.

Verbal or written, indignation, anger and disbelief are key features of most commentary.

But in our firm's June newsletter, we canvassed Brexit and the fact that "a boorish reality TV star could be the next US president".

We explained the reasons in detail and now with the result known, no amount of carping, moaning and demonstration from the left is going to undo what has happened.

To understand what has happened, you need look no further than low-brow but iconic 1970's TV variety show, *Hey Hey it's Saturday*. Led by Daryl Somers and John Blackman (as Ozzie Ostrich), one of the funniest segments was 'What Cheeses Me Off'. And people are cheesed off.

Let's look at a few factors as per just two pages in today's Australian Financial

“And let's not get started on the casualisation of the workforce, or the Australian Bureau of Statistics' lap-dog assumption that gainful employment means working as little as one hour per month”

Review (Thursday, November 17, 2016).

On page 6, the coalition is reported as responding to checks on 457 visas, which many people believe are taking jobs from Australians.

Page 7 has Shorten

courting ethnic groups in order to resist changes to Human Rights Law 18C (notwithstanding that the leader of the Human Rights Commission has been shown to be either incompetent, a verified liar or both).

Also on page 7 the Productivity Commission's report on Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage, which has found that across more than 1000 policies and programs just 34 had been evaluated for their effectiveness.

Flicking back to Page 1, the government is implementing "bot" technology to "deal with enquiries from citizens".

There goes what's left of job security for government call centre operators, and God help poor consumers, already frustrated when speaking to 'helpful' people in far-flung destinations.