

The balanda solutions in our remote communities are not working. DVOs, courts and gaol terms are not helping to heal the deep problems in our communities. They are like a band-aid that allows a sore to fester and spread infection underneath. The DVO system is not a system that works in our communities. We need to find better solutions to help women who need protection, and ensure that the solutions are long-lasting so the perpetrators are taken into a culturally appropriate program about reform and healing.

For perpetrators who become violent with drug and alcohol, we need to have culturally appropriate programs for rehabilitation. We need to have elders and leaders running these programs. Where these things are not working, we can move perpetrators away from the victim, out of a community and on to country elsewhere, and bring peace through banishment if there is no other solution.

Leaders and elders have many ways of managing these problems. We have to be part of the solution, working with families for real outcomes. Family violence is not part of our culture, but we have been disempowered to take action against it because we are no longer the authority. Police, court and gaols have become the authority in our communities, and this means we rarely get rehabilitation and healing because intervention does not connect with our law.

Our remote elders and communities need the government to understand that *raypirri* camps, Yolngu mediators and peacekeepers' ceremonies run by male and female elders should be a priority of this government if it wants to see healing and harmony in our communities.

Motion agreed to; report noted.

BURIAL AND CREMATION BILL (Serial 55)

Continued from 18 May 2022.

Mr EDGINGTON (Barkly): Mr Speaker, the opposition supports the intent and direction of this bill. There is no easy way to address the issues covered by the Burial and Cremation Bill 2022. It can be a sensitive and emotive topic to discuss. This legislation will determine the rights and responsibilities of those involved in the burial and disposal of Territorians' loved ones.

I will be brief. There are a few areas I will touch on. First, I thank the hardworking department staff who attended the briefing provided by the minister's office. I thank the staff in the Opposition Leader's office who have helped to collate information for this bill and preparation for today. I emphasise that the government staff were extremely professional and forthcoming in answering questions, but unfortunately the time for the briefing was clearly not long enough. The briefing started unexpectedly late and was unceremoniously and inexplicably cut short as well. I am not sure why this happened since everything was running smoothly. I was having good communication with the department staff. It was disappointing that I was asked to leave the briefing 10 minutes before the scheduled end of the briefing, after having already waited several minutes at the scheduled start time.

This cut what should have been an hour-long briefing—already a short amount of time for a long and sensitive bill—down to merely 45 minutes. All this after having to reschedule the briefing multiple times at the request of the minister's office. Perhaps in future the minister might make more of an effort at time management and communication for such an important briefing as this.

Nevertheless, during consideration in detail I will still ask the numerous questions that I have and that stakeholders have raised. If it takes longer than usual the rest of the Chamber will know why.

I also thank the hardworking government officers who have brought together this second iteration of the bill after the first version was withdrawn, replacing the out-of-date *Cemeteries Act 1952*. I acknowledge and thank the steering committee—which included representatives from LGANT and all four land councils—on their work so far. I am told that they have had an average of 12 meetings over the past year to guide this legislation and that they will continue to engage with the implementation of this bill.

To my awareness, departmental officers have been working on and reviewing the legislation essentially since 2012. This is not a criticism of the length of time it has taken. In fact, I am pleased that the additional consultation was undertaken over the past three years in recognition of the need for consultation to be thorough at every stage.