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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Crumbs of support for staggering DV statistics**

Despite the Burdekin's 'rate of breach of domestic violence orders' soaring to almost 50 per cent higher than Townsville's in the last year, the district has been left with nothing more than crumbs of support for domestic violence victims, according to Member for Burdekin Dale Last.

Mr Last said with an average of four breaches of domestic violence orders recorded in the Burdekin each week in the 12 months to February, it was inexcusable that the State Labor Government had not allocated more funding to support domestic violence victims in the Burdekin.

"The Burdekin's population is less than ten per cent of Townsville's and yet breaches of domestic violence are 48 per cent higher." Mr Last said.

According to Queensland Police statistics, in the year ending February 2021, breaches of domestic violence offences in the Burdekin were 48 per cent higher than Townsville, 180 per cent higher than Bowen, 157 per cent higher than Ingham and 120 per cent higher than Charters Towers.

"These statistics hit at the heart of every resident, and despite the frightening picture they paint, the Minister has failed to recognise this, offering up a mere extra \$4,538 in one-off COVID brokerage to deliver counselling services and court-based services."

As a former police officer Mr Last said he had seen first-hand how domestic violence had the power to destroy the lives of both victims and children.

"Behind every domestic violence breach recorded, we know there is at least one victim and that the reality is there are so many more victims of domestic violence in our area."

"It is a downright disgrace that the Minister has left some of the most vulnerable people within our communities wondering whether there will be enough resources to go around in their time of need."

Mr Last said with the March 11 announcement of a taskforce led by the Honourable Margaret McMurdo AC, who is also reviewing the experience of women across the criminal justice system, he would hope that victims of

domestic violence in the Burdekin are given the same opportunity to have their voices heard by a Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. Domestic violence doesn't just happen in Capital cities, it occurs across the State and it is only fair that funding and support services reflect that fact said Mr Last.

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