Mr DEAN (Windermere) - Mr President, my special interest speech today will, without doubt, be one of the most important speeches I will ever make in this place. It is such a very important issue.

I draw the members’ attention to a wonderful community event I attended two weeks ago at the Ravenswood Heights Primary School. The event was called the Ravenswood Spectacular, Break the Silence, Stop the Violence and was organised by Colony 47, the service provider for the federal government’s National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children. All the people involved with the event were wearing a tee-shirt but I thought, with advice, that I should not wear that tee-shirt. That is the tee-shirt - it will become a very common tee-shirt throughout Tasmania, I hope.

Never have I attended an event that so strongly and positively advocated against violence against women in such an empowering and uplifting way. The intention of the event was to talk about what family violence looks like, the impact it has on families and the long-term cost to children. It was also designed to provide education to promote attitudinal change and provide practical support to the community members.

Elizabeth Daly is the northern office manager and manager for the project and Colleen Breheney is the project coordinator. I think those ladies would be known by some of the members here today. Elizabeth is certainly well known.

Elizabeth wrote the plan and was successful with the funding. Colleen then took the plan and asked the community what it thought would reduce family violence. Once the program was organised, Sam Adams spread the word via different media outlets.

This community consultation resulted in a number of mini-projects run by volunteer Ravenswood community advocates, including the creation of an anti-violence banner and provision of emergency bags for children. There has been some publicity on that - members might not have seen it.
The main attraction of the project was the Ravenswood Spectacular, designed to show the community that good news does come out of Ravenswood and that fun things do happen in Ravenswood. It also demonstrated that community gatherings can be a way for people to feel connected to each other and to grow stronger as a society.

A special song was written by the students and compiled by well-known performer and three-time ARIA no. 1 singer Rav Thomas. Rav took care of the publicity, and also recorded and released the song. The song emphasises a message of empowerment and also that 'violence is not cool, it is never okay, it stops here'.

On the day of the spectacular, many volunteers worked tirelessly to bring the event to life. Andrew Morley, known to some of you as a well-known actor from Home and Away and Neighbours, also volunteered his time on the day. The girls in the student choir were quite taken to have such a star in their midst and, as one would expect, they all had a crush on Andrew - not surprising.

The news of the event gathered storm on social media. The song will be released again this week or early next week with the school students singing with Rav. The song and the video are downloadable on iTunes, if anyone is interested; it has already been viewed by over 18 000 viewers.

The younger generation at Ravenswood Heights Primary School is going further in endeavouring to create national change. Starting with the generation of children, they are making a stand by empowering the children of this community to take control by sending the message through the song that family violence must stop here.

I congratulate Elizabeth and Colleen and every person involved in this event. It was uplifting, empowering and very successful in bringing together a community that is often affected by the darker things in life. The message portrayed was inspirational and optimistic of the concept that we, as a community, can stop domestic violence if we only stand together.

I would like the Premier to take this up. I would like the Premier to have a look at the song, to listen to it and to view the program that occurred at Ravenswood two weeks
ago - absolutely inspirational. I have heard a lot about violence and how we should tackle it and what we should do, but this program was probably the pinnacle, as far as I am concerned, and the many people who were present at the time -

**Mr Finch** - How many attended?

**Mr DEAN** - I did not count them, but I suspect close to 100 or so at least, and probably more people outside as well. It was well attended.

I will conclude, by reading you the chorus of the song and the words of today's youth. I have changed it a little bit and I would prefer to sing that. I do not know whether that is parliamentary or not, but I was going to bring my guitar in as well and sing the chorus.

Mr President, perhaps I should recite the chorus of that song. It is very empowering as well. It goes like this -

Let's speak up and be strong
And we will tell you it's wrong
We need a happy home
We will not be left alone
Today we stand up and we say
We're telling you it's never okay
It's never okay.

Thank you.