

# Our strangulation victims need Palaszczyk's support

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AN AUSTRALIA-FIRST service would provide specialised support for Warwick residents who have been strangled or choked but only if the Queensland Government grants \$400,000 to get it off the ground.

Queensland Police data shows there were 91 offences of strangulation in the Warwick-Toowoomba area since the act became a crime in May 2016.

Men are the key offenders with the Queensland Police data showing just three charges related to female perpetrators in the Darling Downs police district.

The region accounts for 6.5 per cent of the 1423 strangulation offences recorded across Queensland in the two years to March 31.

"The biggest impact of the laws is that this crime is now taken extremely seriously," Domestic Violence Action Centre's Dawn Osborne said.

"It's brought a bigger focus on strangulation and all of our staff have attended intensive training."

Research shows people who have been strangled at least once are seven times more likely to be murdered by their assailant than those who have not been strangled.

Some victims die or have blood clots, strokes or brain damage months down the track.

Red Rose Foundation hopes to roll out a statewide service

providing immediate and ongoing support for survivors of the crime.

Based on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane, it will give comprehensive online and telephone support to regional Queenslanders.

It will offer trauma counselling, intensive medical support and liaison with local health services and legal help for survivors needing to give evidence against their perpetrators in court.

"Victims need specialised support for the medical implications of strangulation because victims can die up to a year later," Red Rose Foundation CEO Betty Taylor said.

Fundraising has started, with the foundation hoping the Queensland Government will contribute an initial \$400,000 plus ongoing support.

A government spokesperson said it backed the foundation's vision but there was no commitment to funding.

"The government is happy to work with the foundation on how to improve support for survivors and victims of domestic and family violence into the future," the spokesperson said.

NewsRegional supports the Government's #dosomething campaign, which urges people to phone police if they know someone is experiencing domestic violence.

**For 24-hour support in Queensland, phone DVConnect on 1800 811 811 or MensLine on 1800 600 636.**



SUPPORT: Red Rose Foundation's *Deadly Romance* can be viewed at [www.redrosefoundation.com.au](http://www.redrosefoundation.com.au)

Photo: Contributed

## A broader cultural shift in attitude is needed

CANNY violence perpetrators are using a sex loophole in Queensland's strangulation and choking legislation to avoid punishment.

The legislation has the phrase "without the other person's consent".

This was designed to ensure the laws did not impact on

men and women who like being choked, sometimes used during sex to increase pleasure.

Women's Legal Service Queensland lobbied the government to keep the wording out, knowing it would become an issue and the organisation's worst fears have been realised.

"Perpetrators of domestic violence are arguing 'she consented', like they do in rape trials," WLSQ CEO Angela Lynch said.

The State Government was asked if it would consider removing the consent phrase but it did not respond directly to the question.

"There is always room for improvement in this space, and while criminal charges are holding perpetrators to account in the short term, we must also recognise that a broader cultural shift in attitudes is needed in the long term," a spokesperson said.

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Jacque Lachmund is a star of a new domestic violence film.

Photo: Contributed

## This is what it's like to be choked

JACQUE Lachmund is popular, successful, outgoing and living her dream life.

On the outside, Ms Lachmund portrays a picture of success, running a major charity and relishing the time she spends with her son, daughter and her grandkids, but deep down the 50-year-old hides a terrifying secret.

Some years ago, a man she

trusted deeply tried to kill her by wrapping his hands around her throat, crushing her windpipe and choking the life out of her.

"Emotionally and mentally, it's those feelings of fear that really turn into a question of whether you are going to live or die," the chief executive of Australia's CEO Challenge said.

Ms Lachmund fought for her life, eventually pretending to pass out in the hope the man would think she was dead and stop the assault.

The trick worked and the assailant let her go.

"Your survival instinct kicks in and you do whatever you need to do to make it stop," she said.

While many years have

passed since the attack, Ms Lachmund remembers it like yesterday.

She hopes her experience will inspire other strangulation survivors to come forward with their stories. Ms Lachmund is one of the stars of a new short domestic violence film commissioned by Red Rose Foundation. *Deadly Romance* can be viewed on YouTube at [https://](https://youtu.be/Ek2ToCZYQPg)

**YOUR SURVIVAL INSTINCT KICKS IN AND YOU DO WHATEVER YOU NEED TO DO TO MAKE IT STOP.**

JACQUE LACHMUND

[youtu.be/Ek2ToCZYQPg](https://youtu.be/Ek2ToCZYQPg)

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## 'Winter Warmers'

Southern Downs Regional Libraries Amnesty  
1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018

LATE FEES\* waived on donation of warm items of clothing or bedding, such as:

- Socks • Mittens • Beanies • Scarves • Jumpers
- Shawls • Flannelette pyjamas • Blankets etc.

All donated items must be new and in the original packaging or with the price tag attached

\* Applies to new and existing late fees.

\* Does not apply to lost item charges or items returned damaged

ITEMS DONATED TO SALVATION ARMY IN JUNE 2018



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