



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszcuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 May 2015

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Domestic and Family Violence**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.06 pm): Mr Speaker, tonight, along with the Leader of the Opposition, I will attend the Brisbane annual candle-lighting vigil where we honour the memory of victims of domestic violence. We will light candles for the 15 Queenslanders who have been killed by their partners or former partners in the 12 months since last year's vigil.

Each week one or more Australian women are killed by a violent partner, husband or father. These statistics are horrifying. As a community and a government, we say, 'No more.' As a community and a government, we must not despair but be driven to act to take a stand against violence. As a community and a government, we need to make violence against women and children totally unacceptable in our society.

Last month, domestic violence was discussed by all the Premiers at COAG and this issue is now on the national agenda. The leaders agreed on the need for a national domestic violence order scheme so that a protection order in one state would apply across the country. At COAG, all states also agreed to support a national advertising campaign. Queensland will contribute \$30 million towards this.

The Queensland government is investing \$49 million over five years in new domestic and family violence services to support child and family reforms and address service gaps. This money is committed from the response to the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry. My government is currently reviewing the 140 recommendations of the domestic violence task force report titled, *Not now, not ever* to develop a long-term strategy to reduce domestic violence. The head of the task force, Dame Quentin Bryce, will be attending a special parliamentary breakfast this Friday that I will host. I will detail for community leaders how we can make a difference together.

My government is committed to forging strong partnerships with the community and organisations dedicated to helping women in need such as DVConnect. This morning, I visited DVConnect's crisis call centre to announce an extra \$1.5 million in funding over two years to boost its ability to take crisis calls. This extra funding will ensure women's cries for help will literally be heard, that there will be enough staff on hand at DVConnect to take their calls. When I arrived at DVConnect at 10.30 this morning, they had already received some 100 calls. Some days they will receive up to 300 a day—300 calls for help a day. This is another number that could drive us to despair, but it could also be a sign that more women know that there is help available. It is another number that I will have in mind tonight when I attend the candlelight vigil.

Tonight, as I light the candle for the lives lost, I vow that my government is committed to real and lasting change. When it comes to domestic and family violence we can and we will remain vigilant.