




Speech By
Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Women

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.36 am): This government is for all Queenslanders and my cabinet is clear evidence of that. Eight of my 14 cabinet positions are held by women. That should not be remarkable given the gender breakdown of our population, but it is an historic level. It is a deeply significant breakthrough for women in leadership and it is something that I am immensely proud of. My government is now committed to ensuring women are equally represented at all levels of leadership on boards and committees for government bodies.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What do they have against women?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! I know we are excited. I call the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There are about 320 Queensland government bodies, each providing leadership and responsibility for various government processes. However, at the moment just 31 per cent of those board positions are filled by women. In 2015, that is unacceptable. Therefore, I am pleased to announce today that my government is putting a call out to women across Queensland to take the next step to represent their communities. This weekend we will start advertising for expressions of interest to build a strong register of women to fill vacancies as they arise across government bodies. We want to hear from enthusiastic Queenslanders interested in being appointed to government boards, committees and statutory authorities. We are seeking women—

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Whitsunday, please desist your interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are seeking women with expertise across a range of disciplines, including corporate finance and economics, commercial business, human resources, community, stakeholder engagement and legal. We want women to formally register their interest so we have a bank of women to approach as vacancies arise. That is vital to making our government boards truly representative.

Queensland government bodies are a critical link between government and the wider community. They range in scale and character from providing policy advice to overseeing multimillion dollar government trading enterprises. I appeal to women across Queensland to look out for these newspaper advertisements this weekend and to submit an expression of interest. Queensland can only benefit from the expertise, skills, perspective and knowledge women bring to decision-making processes. It is time for Queensland to benefit from this wealth of untapped experience and set a positive example for industry to follow.