



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszcuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2015

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Domestic and Family Violence**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.37 am): Queensland stands together against domestic and family violence. Like most Queenslanders, I struggle to understand the events of last week. I struggle to understand how any human could act in what appears to be such a callous and vicious way to end the life of another. Domestic and family violence is often committed by people who are meant to love and care for their victims or once claimed to love and care for them. We saw what was reported in the media, and families have been ripped apart. There were countless other incidents throughout last week and in the past. Some were reported to police or reported in the media and others were not.

Despite our society's overwhelming rejection of domestic violence, it still happens and it often happens behind closed doors. I have been encouraged by good men who have heard the call and stood up to be the role models we need. The Brisbane Broncos and North Queensland Cowboys, led by Johnathan Thurston and Justin Hodges, raised awareness on the national stage by wearing white armbands during Saturday's game.

It is not just public displays or displays reported in the media where good men are being role models to young men and our community is taking a stand. It is the men in the pubs who call-out a mate on their behaviour. It is the neighbours who hear what may be domestic violence occurring across the road and make the call to police. It is the police officers and the ambulance workers who respond to these incidents and the social workers, doctors and psychologists who work with women experiencing or leaving domestic violence situations. It is the family members and friends who offer support.

As a government and as a parliament, we are acting, and I thank the opposition and the Leader of the Opposition for their bipartisan approach. Measures we have announced in recent days include: priority attention for anyone who attends the front counter of a police station on domestic violence issues; the need for police supervisors to conduct mandatory quality checks on all over-the-counter requests for domestic violence orders; and the urgent rollout of 300 body-worn cameras for police on the Gold Coast to assist in gathering evidence.

In this sitting we will introduce legislation to increase penalties for breaches of domestic violence orders; ensure that domestic violence is specifically recorded on a person's criminal history; establish an independent death review board to identify systemic issues regarding support services for victims; and give domestic violence victims 'special witness' status in the court which could mean an alleged perpetrator is not in the same room while the witness testifies.

The Queensland community has spoken. Domestic violence must stop. Governments cannot do this alone. We need each and every Queenslanders to take a stand and say enough is enough.