




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

DVConnect

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.06 pm): In May this year my government gave an extra \$1.5 million to the domestic violence crisis support service DVConnect to help them deal with a spike in the number of calls for help. Then we had the events of last week—sudden public acts of domestic violence which put a spotlight on the horrors that might be happening behind closed doors.

I spoke to Di Mangan from DVConnect, and we discussed how these incidents could lead to an increase in cries for help received by her organisation. I told her that, if she needed more help, my government was there to provide that support. As we forecast, DVConnect have seen calls double. On Monday and Tuesday this week they broke a new distressing record. I am advised that they received more than 400 calls on each day.

It goes without saying that more calls to DVConnect means more resources are required to deal with them. When a woman or a man finds the courage to pick up the phone and ask for help, it needs to be answered. And it must be answered by professionals who can provide the support the person needs. At my request, Di and her team put in a considered request for more staffing. I am proud to announce today that my government will be providing DVConnect with an extra \$1.2 million in funding this year. This will mean four more crisis intervention counsellors and extra funds for people seeking assistance leaving their home, including emergency accommodation, transport, food, clothing and medical needs. That brings my government's total commitment to DVConnect to \$5.1 million, and that is about 97 per cent of their funding.

This is a statewide service. Di tells me that workers are trained to be geographically familiar with all of the state, including remote areas and every island of the Torres Strait. DVConnect flies a person to safety from somewhere in Queensland every three days. It provides crisis response for women, children and men—sometimes emergency housing, sometimes just helpful information, sometimes helping a victim plan their long-term escape.

DVConnect provides a Womensline, a Mensline, a Sexual Assault Helpline, a Pets in Crisis program and a training arm. There has been an increase in calls to DVConnect and the response that we are providing is indeed the right and necessary thing to do. It means that the news coverage of what is happening is encouraging victims to speak out, to take the crucial steps they need to escape their personal hell. DVConnect is there to help, and my government is there to provide that assistance. Their number should be shared far and wide—1800811811.