




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.32 am): This evening, Brisbane will come together, stand united as a community and say enough is enough. We will gather at Queens Park in the city at 5.30 for the Queensland Says ‘Enough’ rally which will signal to every perpetrator, every victim and every Queenslander that the domestic violence that is gripping our state and gripping our country must come to an end. My government and governments throughout the country have taken swift action against domestic and family violence—particularly in Queensland where the issue has become shockingly confronting and public in recent months.

But this is an issue and a crisis that transcends politics. I think the true demonstration of that is that this parliament will rise early this evening to give all members the opportunity to attend the Queensland Says ‘Enough’ rally. That will allow not only members from the Brisbane and south-east region to attend but members from across the state and across the political spectrum. It will allow us to stand as one to say that domestic violence will no longer be tolerated in our society and, critically, it will no longer be swept aside. The sad, confronting, horrific fact is that each week in Australia a woman is killed at the hands of her husband or partner or former husband or partner. The horrific events of recent months in this state have appalled and galvanised us all, but those murders have also reminded us that, although they occurred in public places, countless others take place behind closed doors—in the supposed safety of home.

My government has acted swiftly and, I should stress, with bipartisan support. We have introduced operational and legislative changes, including changes to the way police deal with domestic violence complaints, increased penalties for breaches of domestic violence and special witness status in courts to protect victims from intimidation. We have also allocated an additional \$1.2 million to the extraordinary team at DVConnect who field an extraordinary volume of calls each day. There will be two new crisis shelters—one in Townsville and one in Brisbane—and we are trialling a specialist domestic violence court on the Gold Coast. But domestic violence is an issue we must face at the grassroots. We must address the fact that something very fundamental in our society is broken. We must confront the fact that the very fundamental principles of respectful relationships have broken down. We have to go back to basics and address the sad fact that attitudes are wrong, and we do this by starting with our children, by teaching them to respect one another and by setting examples.

We must never forget those who have lost their lives in this epidemic and at the same time we must look after our future generations. Thankfully, there is a mood for change. There is a desire to stand united and there is a desire to truly bring domestic violence out of the shadows and face the fact that our society simply must change. I truly encourage every member of this place to take part in this peaceful gathering this evening to remember victims of domestic violence. I hope that by showing strength in numbers we can all lead by example, we can help change attitudes and we can honestly face up to this—because enough is enough.