



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 November 2015

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Domestic and Family Violence**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.34 am): Over the past fortnight in Queensland, we have witnessed more alleged cases of horrifying domestic violence. Those incidents have saddened us, frightened us and driven home the fact that we are in the grip of a shocking and perplexing epidemic. The fact that recent events have been so appallingly public has shocked us. These acts are simply unspeakable. However, it has not closed our minds and our hearts to what is going on behind closed doors. We cannot forget the women, men and children who are living terrifying lives in the abysmal shadow of domestic violence. The terrible fact is that each week in Australia, a woman is killed at the hands of her husband or partner, or former husband or partner. That is a fact that should galvanise us all and it is a fact that should shock us into action.

My government, with bipartisan support, has acted quickly with a raft of operational and legislative reforms 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 allocated an additional \$1.2 million to the team at DVConnect, which fields an extraordinary volume of calls for help each day. There will be two new crisis shelters, one in Townsville and one in Brisbane, and we are trialling specialist domestic violence courts on the Gold Coast.

Today it fills me with great pride to announce another initiative. This one involves the unique participation and cooperation of Brisbane's television news stars. For the first time in history for a government, the faces of the commercial networks—channels 10, 9 and 7—have put aside the fact that their stations compete with each other for ratings to stand side by side in a series of compelling ads designed to help put an end to domestic violence. In a show of generosity on the part of the television networks and as a show of their determination to help campaign against domestic violence, those ads will go to air free of charge as community service announcements. The community service announcements were collaboratively produced by the television networks in partnership with the Queensland government. Each station contributed their time and talent free of charge, with MediaCom, the Queensland government's media booking agency, offering free-of-charge production management. The ads will begin airing in prime time this weekend. Importantly, the ads include a strong message that Queenslanders need to take responsibility and act as good men.

I place on the record my genuine thanks to Channel 7 news presenters Bill McDonald, Shane Webcke and Sharyn Ghidella; Network Nine presenters Andrew Lofthouse, Melissa Downs and Wally Lewis; and Network 10 talent Georgina Lewis, Lachlan Kennedy and Jonathan Williams. Additionally, my government will hold a White Ribbon Day breakfast at the Sofitel on 25 November. I thank the ABC's Matt Wordsworth for agreeing to host that event. My government thanks our TV stars for helping to bring the domestic violence issue out of the shadows. My government thanks you for joining us and joining all Queenslanders in saying enough is enough.