




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) (2.05 pm): I would like to update the House on my government's latest achievements in our ongoing campaign to combat domestic and family violence in Queensland. Last week, to mark White Ribbon Day, Quentin Bryce and I hosted a breakfast attended by more than 600 people. This was a powerful occasion at which the audience together vowed that enough is enough.

A panel of good men spoke about how we can galvanise the community to be outraged at this issue in our society. I would like to thank Aurizon CEO Lance Hockridge, psychologist Ed Mosby, league legend Darren Lockyer and magistrate Colin Strofield for taking part in the panel, for providing their insights and for their commitment to this cause. At the breakfast I named Lance, Ed and Darren as members of our Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council, to be chaired by the Hon. Quentin Bryce. The council will oversee implementation of the 121 recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report and the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy. More than 90 of these recommendations are now actively underway and 12 have been completed. The implementation council's members have also been drawn from a range of locations and professions across Queensland.

At the breakfast I also announced the introduction of specific domestic and family violence leave for Queensland government employees. This new Public Service directive means an extra 10 days paid leave per year for employees affected by domestic and family violence. This is a precious time to cover emergency situations, counselling, attendance at court or legal advice. Countless personal stories of people affected by domestic and family violence have stressed the importance of compassionate and understanding workplaces. The Queensland government has heeded this message. As the state's largest employer, the Queensland government must lead the way. I hope that other employers will follow.

Another significant step in our battle against domestic and family violence will be introduced in this House today. My government will introduce legislation to make nonlethal strangulation a stand-alone offence under the Criminal Code. We know that strangulation is a predictive risk factor in domestic violence, indicating an escalation. What is more, domestic violence workers tell us that it is an intensely personal crime. Perpetrators are staring into the eyes of their victims as they dominate and control. Many women have also raised this issue with me over the past nine months, and today my government acts. This legislation will make nonlethal strangulation a stand-alone offence punishable with up to seven years jail. This is about holding perpetrators to account. It was a recommendation of the *Not now, not ever* report. What is more, the sector is telling us that this step is vital. We know that we must tackle domestic and family violence from many angles, from prevention right through to punishment. My government's commitment to this cause will not waver.