




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.56 am): Earlier this year the government was presented with the comprehensive *Not now, not ever* report from a special domestic and family violence task force. As a government we have been strongly guided by the recommendations of former governor-general Quentin Bryce. We are implementing all of the 140 recommendations proposed in the report. Fifteen of these recommendations have implications for public and private health services and health professionals. One of these is to work with the health sector to ensure more widespread best practice amongst all health professionals, including GPs and midwives, when dealing with domestic and family violence. Queensland Health is also developing a specialist support and referral model for all maternity and emergency departments and is undertaking an evaluation of antenatal screening for violence.

These initiatives are about better equipping our hospital and health service staff to address this issue by identifying violence as early as possible. Our government recognises the important role of all health professionals in recognising domestic and family violence. We will lead the development of training resources such as tool kits and training for both public and private sector health professionals so they can better recognise situations involving domestic and family violence. These resources will be implemented in a train-the-trainer program where key professionals will complete training and then will train other health professionals in their workplaces.

Our 16 health and hospital services will also ensure that all health professionals receive appropriate training and that all women attending antenatal clinics are asked about their exposure to domestic and family violence, with appropriate referrals if this is disclosed. The Department of Health will lead the development of the evaluation of antenatal screening for domestic and family violence and will provide a report to the Domestic and Family Violence Council. The earlier that domestic and family violence is identified, the earlier the resources can be deployed to support victims. We will also work with the private health sector in developing resources and training.

Domestic violence is not just an issue for Queensland. Since our election, this government has been playing a leading role in advancing necessary reforms across Australia. In April I took 15 recommendations from the *Not now, not ever* report to the COAG health ministers council. These recommendations are being worked on across the nation as they impact on the roles and responsibilities of registered health professionals. At my request, in November the COAG health ministers council meeting will be provided with an update on the implementation of these recommendations. Initiatives such as those that I have outlined indicate that we are taking a strong stance in saying that enough is enough and in making real moves towards protecting people from domestic and family violence.