




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

DVConnect

 **Miss BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (3.37 pm): Last week I was warmly welcomed into the DVConnect helpline state office. DVConnect has a women's line, men's line, pets in crisis and sexual assault line. In 2014 it received 64,000 calls. This is a free and confidential service that provides emergency assistance, advice, crisis counselling, information referral and support to women and men who have experienced domestic violence. The service in Queensland is the busiest service in the country. It is even busier than the national service. From October 2014 DVConnect had a notable spike in calls and averaged between 140 to 260 calls overnight. The service has been in perpetual crisis due to the demands of the community. The Palaszczuk government recently announced additional funding of \$1.5 million over two years for DVConnect. The service informs me that it has already spent the first allotment of these funds providing for direct client needs and services. DVConnect represents an important first port of call for those most vulnerable in our community who have nowhere else to go. I am confident that this extra funding will start to equip DVConnect with resources to meet the challenge that domestic and family violence represents in our community. When I met with DVConnect it asked me to pass along to this House and to our Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, its profound thanks and gratitude for the much needed funding provided within the first three months of office.

In addition, the Palaszczuk government has also announced \$17 million over the next three years for domestic and family violence support services, including in my electorate of Pine Rivers. This funding will strengthen our local capacity to respond to the needs of people affected. Minister Fentiman has identified that the new services will give families affected by domestic violence better access to specialist counselling, court based services, information and support and intervention programs.

Our government is taking very seriously the issue of domestic and family violence. The 'Not now, not ever' Dame Quentin Bryce task force recommendations are being considered carefully to see how improved support can be provided to families and individuals experiencing family violence. I look forward to speaking in this place about the positive impact that these recommendations will have on my community and local capacity improvements in Pine Rivers as well as our great state with successful services like DVConnect.