




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.13 pm): I too would like to take this opportunity to update the House on the Queensland government's efforts to address domestic and family violence. Given my own history working with services supporting women experiencing violence, I am passionate about this issue and determined that our government will make a difference to tackle this problem. The additional \$1.5 million announced for DVConnect by the Premier this morning will employ extra staff, specialist counsellors and help assist with travel and accommodation costs for women and their children fleeing domestic and family violence. That is on top of the \$3.17 million this fantastic service is already receiving this financial year.

According to the report by the special task force led by Dame Quentin Bryce, domestic and family violence costs the Queensland economy around \$3 billion every year. This shows the significance of this issue to the broader community, not to mention the horrific human cost. About 181 reports of domestic and family violence incidents go to Queensland police every day and more go unreported. We are working on a whole-of-government plan and response to the 140 recommendations in the Bryce report and it is important that we do that.

Shockingly, Queensland has been the only jurisdiction without a domestic violence strategy. This is totally unacceptable given the importance of this issue. But we are also acting immediately. We have committed to two additional shelters in Townsville and Brisbane—the first new shelters in Queensland in over 20 years. I also recently announced \$17 million for new services in communities, including Townsville, Toowoomba, Pine Rivers, Redcliffe, Goodna, Ipswich, the Sunshine Coast and parts of Brisbane. This included \$2.3 million over three years for the Working Against Violence Support Service, or WAVSS, in my electorate of Logan to help them set up a new service in the Redlands where there have previously been no support services available. Our new Trust Your Instinct campaign urges anyone who suspects someone they know is being abused to trust their instinct and call DVConnect. We are working hard to get the Trust Your Instinct message out in communities across Queensland and I urge members to publicise this campaign in your own communities and via social media. Increased awareness of these issues is playing a part in the rising demand for services, so it is vital when we encourage people to trust their instincts that they have the services they need. Only by bringing this issue out from behind closed doors can we progress towards eliminating domestic and family violence.