




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.23 pm): I rise to speak about the important developments which have taken place since I took on my portfolios. We have had a busy few months. The immediate difference of our government is that we value the important work being done by the community sector. Members opposite removed their right to advocate for the vulnerable when they received government funding. We are keen to hear their good ideas.

We are an open government. We are working hard on policies to tackle the scourge of domestic and family violence and will soon be releasing our government's response to the 140 recommendations in the *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland* report. We have also announced that we will be building two new shelters in Brisbane and Townsville—the first in Queensland for 25 years.

We have also given \$1.5 million in extra funding to DVConnect, which supports women and children experiencing domestic and family violence, on top of the more than \$3 million in annual funding. Our Trust Your Instinct campaign urges people to speak out and call DVConnect if they suspect a friend, a colleague or a loved one is suffering abuse.

It is vital that when people do speak out we have the services to help them. That is why we are delivering on the \$49 million over five years to organisations which help families suffering from domestic and family violence. We are also contributing to the \$30 million national awareness campaign. I might say that it was disappointing to see that that was the only mention of domestic and family violence in the federal budget.

We are a government that believes in helping women, which is why we are developing a strategy for women in Queensland—something that those opposite did not get around to doing. In fact, they did not even have a minister for women. We have also given over \$960,000 over three years to The Pyjama Foundation for its fantastic support program which provides services to children in care. We have launched the Next Step After Care services to support young people leaving care. For the first time we have also provided funds for Community Action for a Multicultural Society workers for Rockhampton and Mount Isa. This also includes a worker to support Muslim women across the state.

In the first six months, the LNP abolished civil unions, cut \$1.9 million from the PCYC and made cuts to Sisters Inside, the Working Women's Service and Family Planning Queensland. In contrast, this Palaszczuk government is getting on with delivering front-line services to our Queensland community.