




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Women

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.57 am): As Minister for Women, I am determined to improve the status of women in leadership roles and the role the government plays to assist them. I am so pleased that the Premier has announced today a strategy to increase women's participation on government boards across Queensland. It is another example of the Palaszczuk government restoring important initiatives dumped by the LNP. The former Labor government had the Women on Boards Strategy, which helped to increase women's representation on Queensland government boards and bodies from 33.5 per cent to 56.1 per cent over six years. The strategy worked, but this strategy was dumped by the LNP in 2012—not keen on women on boards, apparently. Now Queensland's representation has dropped back down to 31 per cent. So it is important today that we commit to a strategy to boost women's leadership across—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, honourable members! Member for Nanango, you will have a chance to make a statement later this morning if you choose. I call the minister.

Ms FENTIMAN: A strategy for women in Queensland is something the LNP did not think was worth bothering with either, apparently.

The research shows that improving gender diversity on boards is good for business productivity. Alarming, a recent Australian diversity and productivity researcher revealed that there are more men named Peter on the top 200 ASX boards in CEO positions than there are women.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I cannot hear the minister.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana!

Ms FENTIMAN: I am committed to increasing the opportunities for women's leadership across government, industry and the community sector. As Minister for Women, I have had the opportunity to attend numerous events celebrating the successes of Queensland women. From rural women's innovation, to women in mining, women lawyers and Muslim women, I never cease to be amazed at Queensland's wealth of talent. There is no shortage of quality, qualified women ready to make a contribution.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Hinchinbrook, I do not need your interjections. If you want to make a statement, you can make a statement later this morning.

Ms FENTIMAN: The Palaszczuk government is leading by example with a majority of women around the cabinet table—a first for Queensland and the nation. Within our region, other countries are discussing these important issues. The Malaysian Prime Minister recently spoke of his commitment to reaching a target of 30 per cent of women on the boards of all public companies. Just last week, I had the pleasure of meeting with our Consul-General for Japan who was telling me about Prime Minister Abe's policies to empower women. He is actively trying to promote higher participation rates, with his goal for Japan to have 30 per cent of all their leadership positions filled by women by 2020—if only our own Prime Minister, the federal minister for women, would give this some thought.