



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2015

**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) (9.52 am): Last week can only be described as horrific but, unfortunately, it confirms what we already know: there is a crisis here in Queensland and across the country. Two women a week are killed at the hands of their partner or former partner. It is simply awful, but I do believe that last week can be a turning point. This is a crisis gripping the whole community and the whole community needs to respond. Earlier this year Dame Quentin Bryce handed her report *Not now, not ever* to the Premier, and this government has accepted each and every one of the 140 recommendations in that report. It is the most comprehensive response to tackle domestic and family violence that this state has ever seen.

As early as March this year, we announced that work would begin urgently to establish two new 72-hour crisis shelters—the first refuges for women and children fleeing violence here in Queensland for more than 20 years. In May, we announced an extra \$1.5 million for DVConnect to help deal with the increased number of calls they have been experiencing since last year and, as the Premier announced this week, we stand ready to provide them with whatever support they need to match this increase in calls from women reaching out right across Queensland.

We have accepted an invitation to join the national awareness and prevention organisation Our Watch in recognition of the importance of changing the attitudes and behaviours that underpin this violence against women. As I have said before in this place, recent research by Our Watch shows that one in six 12- to 24-year-old young men believe that women should 'know their place' and that one in three believe that exerting control over someone in a relationship is not a form of violence. More than a quarter of young people believe that male verbal harassment and pressure for sex towards women are normal practices.

We know that there is much to do, and that is why in recent days the Premier announced the fast-tracking of some of the other key recommendations from the *Not now, not ever* report. We announced that Beenleigh and Logan will be the first trial site of a new integrated response for domestic violence to work with the existing Gold Coast integrated response and new specialist domestic violence court to ensure a systematic approach right across the region. This means our hospitals, police, courts, corrective services and DV support services will work together and share information. The safety of women is central to everything it does. Importantly, it holds perpetrators to account, and we will roll out perpetrator behaviour change programs as part of our response.

We have now commenced action on more than 73 of the 121 Bryce recommendations that were directed at government. There is more to do. There will be more to come. We will not rest until we have done absolutely everything to stop this cycle of violence. In 2015-16 our government is spending more

than \$66 million to tackle this scourge on our community, and my own department has increased spending by more than 50 per cent on the previous financial year. This includes direct funding to those on-the-ground services supporting women and children. But government cannot do this alone. We need everyone to stand up and say that domestic and family violence will not be tolerated—not now, not ever.