




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2015

MOTION: SPECIAL TASKFORCE ON DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (6.05 pm): I am very happy to talk about our government's strong response to and implementation of the 140 recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report and take this opportunity to thank the members of the task force for their very comprehensive report. Over the past few days I have proudly stood with the Premier to announce initiatives to implement priority recommendations. As I said this morning, implementation has commenced on 73 of the 121 recommendations directed at government, and work is underway on all the others.

Although the opposition's motion expresses bipartisan support, I note that this morning and tonight they chose to criticise the government for taking seven months to respond, a criticism that is not only not bipartisan but is unfair and untrue. Let me just spell out for the members of the House the key actions that we have taken each and every month since this report was handed down.

In February the report was handed down to the Premier. In March, on International Women's Day, we announced urgent work would begin on two new 72-hour crisis shelters, the first in over 20 years. In April the Premier attended COAG and agreed that Queensland would contribute \$3 million to a national awareness campaign and that we would be a trial site for a nationally consistent DVO scheme. In May the government announced an additional \$1½ million for DVConnect. In June, sector and location based round tables across Queensland were held to consult with the community on how we can all work together and inform the government's response and implementation of the Bryce report. We accepted the invitation to join Our Watch, an invitation rejected by the former government in 2013.

In July the first Palaszczuk government budget prioritised domestic and family violence with a \$31.3 million package aimed at the priority recommendations including a specialist Domestic Violence Court and the death review panel. In August the government released the full response to the *Not now, not ever* report, accepting each and every one of the 140 recommendations. This month we have made several announcements fast-tracking police and justice responses and, of course, the Beenleigh Logan trial site for an integrated response. But there is still more to be done if we are to achieve the full implementation of the road map that Dame Quentin Bryce has provided for us to tackle this scourge on our community. The Premier has also indicated that we would be happy to host a national summit called for by opposition leader Bill Shorten and we hope that the new Prime Minister will join Mr Shorten in a bipartisan way to commit to this summit.

We have set out in our response to the report that there are a number of other priorities for the coming months. We will have our shelters up and running by the end of this year. We will establish the Premier's implementation council, which Dame Quentin Bryce has agreed to chair. We will continue to develop resources to support respectful relationships in our schools. We will consult and consider the locations of two other integrated response models—in a regional community and in an Indigenous

community. We will finalise the audit of support services already underway by KPMG to inform a long-term investment strategy. We will continue to consider further legislative reform to strengthen protection of victims and hold perpetrators to account. We will conduct a review of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act and how it works with other key pieces of legislation.

I have to say, it was disappointing this morning to see the opposition try to link this important issue to gambling and gaming machine licences in an attempt to score political points. Let us be clear: although there are factors which can exacerbate the violence and aggravate the circumstances, there is no excuse for domestic and family violence—not gambling pressures, not the economy and not substance abuse. As I have said, we will only end this violence if we tackle underlying attitudes towards women. We are acting with a sense of urgency and priority across the whole of government, and we will methodically work through the recommendations and ensure that we are offering the best and most comprehensive response possible to end this epidemic of violence.

I heard it stated over the weekend that the shadow Treasurer thought our implementation was haphazard, but I think we can all agree that Dame Quentin Bryce's approach is anything but haphazard. I suggest that in the spirit of bipartisanship the opposition get on board, get involved, look at the government's response and you will see that we are acting on the recommendations.