




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2015

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

**Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention
Committee, Report**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.18 pm): May I begin by thanking the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee for the consideration of my 2015-16 budget. The estimates process is fundamental to the delivery of transparent and accountable government, and I welcome the opportunity to discuss my priorities for my portfolios. My portfolios provide support for vulnerable Queenslanders, children and families, as well as creating opportunities for women and young people. As we have heard, one of the more urgent areas of need for my department is addressing the scourge of domestic violence. No-one should be in any doubt about the determination of the Palaszczuk government in working to eliminate this scourge from our state.

I would like to touch on some of the comments made by the member for Caloundra during this debate. I absolutely accept that men are victims of domestic violence, and I did state that earlier today in this House. Page 7 of the *Not now, not ever* task force report clearly states—

The majority of people who experience domestic and family violence in Queensland are women.

...

The statistics ... tell us ... that the most common pattern of domestic ... violence is ... committed by men against women.

Understanding the gendered nature of domestic ... violence is vital in designing the response model and identifying reforms to provide better support to victims and measures to change the culture.

I am so pleased that the Palaszczuk government is investing more than \$66 million this financial year on a broad range of measures to reduce domestic and family violence in Queensland and I am proud to be the Minister for Women in the Palaszczuk government—unlike members opposite, who did not see fit to appoint one. I look forward to hearing if the new Prime Minister does a better job selecting our new federal minister for women, but my tip would be actually appointing a woman to the role. As the communities minister I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know key stakeholders from the communities sector. Everywhere I go I meet incredibly hardworking people dedicated to supporting women, children, young people and families and I have been heartened by how many have told me that they are grateful to have a government and a minister who understands what they do and appreciates their efforts. The previous government alienated the communities sector by gagging advocacy in funding agreements and cuts to vital funding. I am proud that this government is rebuilding the communities sector, recognising the role that it plays in helping families, children and vulnerable people in Queensland.

The 2015-16 budget provides funding for 341 community organisations big and small right across the state. In contrast, the LNP's fiscal repair included Child Safety cuts totalling \$73 million and community services cuts totalling \$63 million. The impacts of these cuts cannot be understated and there was significant damage right across the state to our communities sector. A good example of this was the LNP's neglect to our neighbourhood centres. Unlike the LNP, we intend to support them. The previous LNP government scrapped the capital works program. This Palaszczuk government is investing \$12.2 million over four years for upgrades and replacements to our neighbourhood centres as well as \$14 million to support 121 neighbourhood centres across the state. I know from my volunteer work with the Beenleigh Neighbourhood Centre that does such great work supporting local vulnerable families that it provides an invaluable service.

We made an election commitment to continue the implementation of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry recommendations and I believe child safety is an area that is above politics and deserves bipartisan support, and I acknowledge the support from the member for Aspley that our budget was very good news for our ongoing child and family reforms. But one way in which we are building on these reforms is the introduction of free parenting support for Queensland parents through the renowned Triple P parenting program. It is free for Queensland families. We know that this is what families have been asking for. Through the Talking Families campaign run by the Family and Child Commission, parents were telling us that they needed this parenting support and I am delighted to be launching the first Triple P seminar in Red Hill tomorrow. The opposition had not one question about how our Triple P support programs—

(Time expired)