




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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ADJOURNMENT

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (7.07 pm): I have been so heartened by the number of organisations, community groups and influential Queenslanders who have stood up in recent times to say ‘not now, not ever’ to domestic and family violence. As the *Not now, not ever* report made clear, action from across all sections of the community is vital to tackling the scourge of domestic and family violence. That is why I was delighted to join with a group of local football clubs in my electorate of Waterford as they joined together to commit to having all of their senior players undertake a domestic violence education and awareness course at the Beenleigh PCYC next year.

Local rivalries have been put aside and different codes are joining together in a really practical way to ensure that education is spread through the community about domestic and family violence. The program is a joint initiative by me, the Beenleigh PCYC, Logan City Council candidate Michael Rose and local senior football clubs—Beenleigh Junior Rugby League, South East Suns AFL, Beenleigh Buffaloes AFL, Beenleigh Pride Senior Rugby League and the Eagleby Giants Rugby League.

The club presidents told me how their clubs' goal was not just to develop great footballers but to develop great people. I could not agree more. This is the kind of leadership we need. Sport is a fantastic way to bring people together and help develop the values and attitudes of young people. So having sporting role models stepping up like this is vital.

The Local Government Association of Queensland also recently spearheaded a series of rallies organised by councils across the state. I attended one in my local Logan community, where Mayor Pam Parker urged our community to sign the Logan pledge against domestic and family violence—our own version of the White Ribbon pledge. It was wonderful to have so many local members of parliament with me, such as the Minister for Housing, Leeanne Enoch; the Minister for Health, Cameron Dick; and many other local community leaders.

The media has played a huge role in raising the profile of this issue. I would like to pay tribute to my own local papers, the *Albert & Logan News* and the *Logan Reporter*, for helping shine a light on this terrible problem for our community. I have often spoken in this House about the wide range of actions from the government to tackle domestic and family violence, but we all know that without the community behind us we cannot eliminate this problem. From what I am seeing, I feel certain that Waterford residents and the Logan community are right by our side in their resolve to end domestic and family violence.