



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

---

Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2015

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Domestic and Family Violence, Crisis Shelters**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.30 pm): I am pleased to announce that two new crisis shelters for women and children fleeing domestic violence in Brisbane and Townsville will be open before Christmas.

**Government members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Back in March, on International Women's Day, I announced that the two shelters would be established as the first commitment to a recommendation in the *Not now, not ever* report. When women make the brave decision to leave a violent relationship we must make sure we have the support and services there to help. These new shelters will give women and children a secure haven where they can start afresh. I was delighted to join the Minister for Housing and Public Works this morning for a walk-through of the new Brisbane shelter and I was very impressed with its feeling of warmth and calmness. Shelter staff will link women with specialist services to provide support until they have safe, stable housing in place, as well as connecting them with ongoing support for court, health or other issues. The Brisbane Crisis Shelter will offer 11 two-bedroom units of supported accommodation. The shelter in Townsville will provide a mix of two- and three-bedroom supported properties across the city. These shelters will have increased security and privacy, including CCTV, higher fencing, privacy screens and secure gates.

One of the unique aspects of these shelters is they will cater for pets, which was a recommendation from the *Not now, not ever* report, given women in violent situations can also have threats made against their pets and it is one of the barriers to women fleeing violent relationships. The government has allocated nearly \$20 million over four years for the establishment and operational costs of these new shelters.

I would also like to call on all members and everyone across Queensland to donate to our Christmas appeal. We are partnering with the ABC and Queensland Rail to help people who have had to flee their homes as a result of domestic and family violence. Sometimes victims leave with just the clothes on their backs and face the daunting task of setting up home all over again. The aim of this appeal is to help rebuild their lives, whether it is Christmas gifts, homewares or school items for 2016. The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services website has details and gifts can be dropped off at more than 50 places around Queensland and even here at Parliament House in the annexe under the Christmas tree—thank you, Mr Speaker.

This week members may have heard some of the terrible stories of women featured on 612 ABC Brisbane. One woman, Billy, described the terrible physical abuse she suffered before finally fleeing. When she had to set up house again, with support from RizeUp, one of the organisations which will benefit from the appeal, she broke down in tears describing what it meant to her to arrive at a home that was kitted out with absolutely everything she needed. Let us all this Christmas help make a home for someone like this in need.