



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2016

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Budget, Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.06 pm): I am proud that my government has delivered a budget that demonstrates our strong commitment to preventing domestic and family violence in Queensland. Domestic and family violence is a violation of basic human rights and will not be tolerated in our society. Everyone knows someone affected by domestic or family violence. The sense of genuine desperation, fear and despair are just some of the feelings people suffering from domestic violence have expressed to me.

The thing is that domestic violence can happen to anyone. It does not discriminate. Yesterday, as part of my government's state budget, we announced an additional \$198.2 million in funding to address domestic and family violence in Queensland. This brings the total funding by my government to \$233.8 million over five years for domestic and family violence reform, protecting victims and holding perpetrators to account. This demonstrates my government's trailblazing commitment to addressing domestic and family violence since accepting all 140 recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report of the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence led by Quentin Bryce. I would also like to thank the minister, Shannon Fentiman, for all of her work in making sure that the whole-of-government approach to this issue was addressed in this budget. Well done, Minister.

Our funding commitment provides a robust foundation for driving action through our 10-year Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy and Queensland says: not now, not ever. The reform package has a strong focus on prevention—stopping the violence before it happens and supporting those living with violence. This package builds on current successful practices and presents new responses to deliver generational change.

Domestic and family violence campaigner Rosie Batty has stood up to make sure people affected by domestic and family violence have a strong voice in the community. Rosie has put a spotlight on domestic and family violence and taken it out of the shadows. I was pleased to see that Rosie was invited to address the National Press Club earlier today. As I have said previously in this House, I met Rosie at a COAG meeting. I have to say that she is an incredible and amazing woman. She has so much strength and so much resilience. We should all be very proud of her efforts in this area.

I sought the advice of Rosie when our government was looking at trialling specialist domestic and family violence courts. I spoke to Rosie at length. She said that women are getting lost in the maze of law and having to tell their stories repeatedly. A specialist domestic and family violence court was adopted after our last budget. It is operating out of Southport. We will provide an extra \$42.4 million to roll out an additional four specialist domestic and family violence courts in this state. That will be a huge help to women going through the system. It will give them a one-stop shop, ensuring they have the necessary supports around, and it is something that I hope the whole parliament supports.

We also have announced new signature initiatives—namely, \$9.3 million for a communication and engagement program to help change attitudes and behaviours of Queenslanders towards domestic and family violence; \$24.2 million to establish specialist teams to prioritise victims and their safety and to prevent domestic and family violence related homicides; and \$53.4 million for new or enhanced domestic and family violence services including perpetrator interventions to support those in need. The important work of the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council continues to be supported with the \$1 million allocated, and the government has committed to build the capacity of community justice groups in discreet Indigenous communities by allocating \$11 million.

In my role as Premier I have the honour of meeting many inspirational people, and I wish today in this House to acknowledge from the bottom of my heart all those who shared their stories with me. I say thank you to them. I also thank Dame Quentin Bryce for her leadership, steering our special task force on domestic and family violence. You are changing the lives of many Queenslanders. Today I make this commitment to those people experiencing or who have experienced domestic and family violence: my government will never forget you. We will never let you feel like you are walking alone. We will walk with you and stand side by side with you. As Rosie Batty said in closing at the National Press Club address today, 'Change cannot happen without you.' Together, we can help end the violence in our state.