




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 30 August 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council, Report

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.47 am): Today I table the six-monthly report from the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council. This report outlines the progress the government has made in working with stakeholders to implement the recommendations from the landmark *Not now, not ever* report. I would like to thank Minister Fentiman and council chair, Dame Quentin Bryce, as well as all members of the council, for their excellent efforts thus far. I am pleased to report to the parliament that in the six months from December to May significant progress had been made in implementing the report's 121 recommendations to government.

Tabled paper: Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council: Six-Month Report—Dec 2015-May 2016 [[1388](#)].

Work had started on 77 recommendations and 32 have been achieved, with the remaining 12 scheduled for the future action plan. Since the report was written five more recommendations have been completed. We have also introduced legislation to make issuing DVOs simpler for police, ensure cross-agency collaboration and to ensure safety for victims of domestic violence, including children.

Some of the key recommendations that have been implemented include the release of the 10-Year Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy; the opening of 72-hour crisis shelters in Brisbane and Townsville, which have helped more than 1,000 victims escape violence, and since the six-month report a further \$8.7 million has been allocated for regional shelters in Charters Towers and Roma; the trial of a specialist domestic and family violence court at Southport—to build on the trial, the 2016-17 budget included \$42.4 million over four years to roll out more specialist courts; a suite of laws, including amendments to the Penalties and Sentences Act, to make domestic violence an aggravating factor and laws to make non-fatal strangulation a separate offence; the development of the Respectful Relationships education program for all Queensland schools to counter attitudes and behaviours that underpin violence later in life; and this month, further laws were introduced to parliament to give police the powers to act more quickly to protect victims and increase the length of DV orders.

While we have a long road to travel, I get a real sense from the community that everyone is ready to stand up, work together and bring about real change. From the front-line workers who deal with victims everyday all the way through to the COAG table, there is a real sense of urgency when it comes to domestic and family violence reforms. We can all be proud of the significant achievements to date, but it is imperative that we keep this momentum going so that we can break the cycle of domestic and family violence.

In October, Queensland will be the focus of the entire nation when I host fellow first ministers and the Prime Minister at the first Domestic and Family Violence National Summit. I look forward to outlining Queensland's progress to date, as well as listening to measures the other states and territories have introduced. By working together, we can all achieve real outcomes. Through these measures, the legislation we introduced last sitting and the groundswell of determination in our community, I am convinced we can achieve more for domestic and family violence sufferers.