



Speech By  
**Nikki Boyd**


**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

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## **MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

### **Pine Rivers, Mental Health Forum**

 **Miss BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.19 pm): The Palaszczuk government is one that delivers jobs and services to the community where they need them most. This was very obvious to me when I emceed a Rotary mental health forum on Sunday, 21 February in Bray Park.

Dr Alan Ralph PhD was a guest speaker who addressed locals on the benefits of the Triple P program. Dr Ralph is a clinical and educational psychologist based in Queensland in the Gold Coast hinterland. This program—the Positive Parenting Program—is about giving parents a helping hand to access the strategies to build the skills and confidence they need to give their kids the best start in life. It is all about preparedness with the right tools to create the right environment to create success.

This is a program that the Palaszczuk government is rolling out across the state. Triple P has been an absolute success story and has been exported from our backyard to help millions of families to date. Triple P is currently helping families in over 25 countries globally. This makes Triple P Queensland's biggest social services export. With each community rollout comes jobs and service delivery.

It may be hard to believe, but I was a child who took great enjoyment from playing up in my family. The third of four children, I loved to push the boundaries to see what the outcomes would be. But I clearly remember in my primary years my parents heading off to a Triple P parenting course. As a result, I am sure my behaviour changed. That night and the following day is clearly etched in my memory because there was a distinct change in the way they managed me and, in turn, my behaviour. I espouse the benefits of this program, not only as a child who was a product of it but also later in life as an early years educator who promoted the program with children in my care and saw the benefits for both the parents and the child.

This is a program that only Labor in government will make available to families. Triple P is a program that, until Labor came into government, was only accessible by the few who could afford it. Labor stands for equity and opportunity. The availability of this program will mean that those without financial means will be able to get the information, guidance and opportunity. As was pointed out on the day of the forum, the ability for all in the community to access these services will hopefully destigmatise it for families who do.

The next speaker was Sergeant Kelly Gurski, a member of our local Queensland Police Service at Petrie. Sergeant Gurski is an integral part of the Pine Rivers domestic violence team. We know that domestic and family violence is a violation of the basic right we all have to healthy, supportive and safe relationships and lives. It is clear that immediate action is required to eliminate this form of violence from Queensland and indeed from our country.

I am so proud to be part of a government that is acting on domestic and family violence. This started with the adoption of the 141 recommendations of Dame Quentin Bryce's inquiry into domestic and family violence and her *Not now, not ever* report.

The statistics reveal the seriousness of this problem that we are dealing with. In 2013-14 there were more than 66,000 incidents of domestic and family violence reported to the police. That is an average of 181 incidents a day across Queensland. Also within this time period we saw the dire consequences of domestic and family violence with 16 homicides in Queensland.

We know that these deaths can be prevented with an effective service system response. This can only be achieved when the community as a whole collectively stands together and sends a clear message to the community. Sergeant Gurski spoke of a particular case study in which a local woman fled from interstate with her child. She outlined the program strategies and steps that the Pine Rivers domestic violence team took around this particular women.

Working with RizeUp, a domestic violence charity, they helped to turn the life of the victim of domestic violence around by supplying her child with some school uniforms and schoolbooks and also helping turn her new house into a home with furnishings and finishing touches, even groceries. Sergeant Gurski summed it up when she said—

We have come in contact with a lovely young mother and her child. Such horrific abuse that they endured, but they have broken free and are starting a new life, with nothing. The mum's attitude is amazing, I don't think the phrase DV victim suits her, because she is a survivor.

We know that we all have a role to play in preventing domestic and family violence and a responsibility to support those in crisis. We all have a responsibility to stop the cycle of violence.

I have spoken in this place many times on the work that the Palaszczuk government is doing around domestic and family violence. It is work that will leave the community a better place. These changes are a key component of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to improving mental health services for Queenslanders. Mental health, positive parenting and prevention of domestic and family violence programs and services are only delivered when Labor is in government.

I thank Rotary Pine Rivers, Rotary Pine Rivers Daybreak and Dr Alan Ralph, Sergeant Kelly Gurski and Ingrid Wagner who provided their insights and expertise in our community. Last week in this place the Palaszczuk government passed more significant reforms into mental health. The Mental Health Bill will strengthen the rights of patients, families and carers and will provide major benefits for clinicians, the legal system and the wider community.