



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Domestic and Family Violence**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.54 am): The shocking statistics on domestic and family violence have hit us all hard and sparked a huge momentum for change. Right across Queensland, people from all walks of life are banding together in their local communities to say enough is enough.

Just over a year ago, on 28 February 2015, Dame Quentin Bryce's Special Taskforce of Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland presented its Not Now, Not Ever report to the Premier, which laid out a comprehensive road map for reform. This government has been delivering on its commitment to implement all 140 recommendations.

One of our first actions was to establish two new 72-hour crisis shelters in Brisbane and Townsville. They were open just in time for the Christmas period, which sadly is a time of year we see a rise in incidents of domestic violence. More than \$66 million has been allocated in the budget to fund existing programs and new measures to address domestic and family violence.

We have already fast-tracked a number of legislative amendments, including increasing the maximum penalties for breaches of DVOs, dealing with cross-applications and providing for ouster orders. It has been incredible to experience the bipartisan support for urgent amendments to strengthen the legislative framework to tackle domestic violence.

To help us with the legislative review process, a terms of reference paper and survey on the Domestic Violence Protection Act 2012 were released online to engage Queenslanders in this important conversation about what more we can do to tackle domestic and family violence. In addition to legislation, we are ensuring there is continuous oversight and the government is held to account by establishing the Premier's implementation council, which I am so pleased Dame Quentin Bryce has agreed to chair. We have also set up a new specialist DV court at Southport, and Legal Aid Queensland has expanded its duty lawyer service to help victims navigating the legal system.

Our government is also developing a violence against women prevention plan that will seek to send clear, decisive message that gendered violence, in all its forms, is not acceptable and must not be normalised or ignored. This plan will complement and support our recently published Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy and explore ways we can prevent and better respond to violence against women more broadly.

We have achieved so much in just one year, but there is still so much more to do on our path to eliminate domestic and family violence. On National Close the Gap Day it is important to acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more vulnerable and at risk from domestic violence

than other groups in our community. The Not Now, Not Ever report acknowledges that it is a major concern for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and elders. I know that there is a great deal of commitment by leaders and elders to tackle this problem which is hurting their people. We are determined to work with them to do so.