




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman
MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Supporting Families Changing Futures

 **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) (2.39 pm): I am pleased to table the latest update on the child and family reforms, *Supporting families changing futures*, published today online.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Supporting families changing futures, Advancing Queensland's child protection and family support reforms [\[534\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Supporting families changing futures, Advancing Queensland's child protection and family support reforms—Summary [\[535\]](#).

The update shows that more families are getting access to crucial supports when they need them and fewer families are being referred to Child Safety Services. It also outlines our key priorities over the next two years, including actions that further strengthen our focus on prevention and early intervention, tackling domestic and family violence, and addressing the continued over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in child protection services. *Supporting families changing futures* is our way forward in delivering on the 10-year child and family reform agenda. The publication shows our commitment to those reforms and highlights some of the important new initiatives and programs that the Palaszczuk government has introduced to ensure the reforms remain on the right track.

Last year, the government allocated \$6.6 million over two years to help all Queensland parents and carers learn new skills and build confidence to raise healthy, well-adjusted children through free access to the PPP, or Positive Parenting Program. So far, 6,000 parents have accessed the program. As part of the child and family reform agenda, we allocated \$31.3 million over four years on initiatives to tackle domestic and family violence, which is prevalent in many of the families that come to the attention of Child Safety. This financial year, we have also invested half a million dollars to provide specialist domestic and family violence training and resources for front-line family support and child protection workers across the state.

We continue to build on the evidence base to inform future directions. In this area we are providing more than \$420,000 over the next three years to help establish the inaugural Leneen Forde Chair of Child Protection Research at Griffith University. Professor Clare Tilbury from the university's School of Social Work and Human Services will take up the position this month.

Those are just some of the key elements of our *Supporting families changing futures* reform agenda that will deliver real, positive outcomes for Queensland children and families. While progress is being made, we know that there is still more to be done, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander children and families. The entrenched over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in the child protection system is nothing short of a crisis and I am determined that this government will make serious inroads in addressing it.

Over the coming weeks and months, I will continue to speak with community members and leaders about how we can help more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families keep their kids at home and safe, instead of seeing them end up in the child protection system. I commend this publication to the House.