




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

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) (9.55 am): May is Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month, and I am proud that the Palaszczuk government is leading the way by providing \$150,000 for more than 60 community events that are being held right across the state to stand up against violence. From Goondiwindi to Gladstone, communities are calling out violence against women. We want to drive home the message that domestic and family violence is not acceptable—not now, not ever.

I hear a lot of heartbreaking stories every day, and they are usually from the perspective of those whose lives have been changed by the menace of domestic and family violence. However, recently I visited a men's domestic violence perpetrator program. I have to say that hearing from perpetrators at that court ordered program was incredibly challenging. What did not surprise me was that they were ordinary men of all ages and backgrounds, from all walks of life. That is the thing about domestic and family violence: it does not discriminate. I speak a lot about the kind of cultural change we need to instil in our young people to develop healthy, respectful relationships free from violence. This program reminded me about the importance of prevention programs but also of the need for generational change so that we can shift our culture away from this violence.

This year's campaign for domestic violence prevention month calls on us to say 'not now, not ever' to violence in our homes, our schools, our workplaces, our communities. It encourages community campaigns to showcase how they can help stop violence and send the message that together we can change the culture, attitudes and systems that underpin violence in our community, because we all have a role to play.

In Gladstone, the Gladstone Women's Health Centre brought the community together with their 'Not in our town' initiative; in Rockhampton, UnitingCare Community and AFL Capricornia have run a 'Not in our club' campaign; and in the Redlands I was proud to join the member for Capalaba at the launch of the 'Non-violence is contagious: give it to your friends' sticker campaign. This fantastic campaign has seen the local DV service WAVSS Across the Redlands, community groups and the Redlands City Council send out 60,000 stickers to local residents, sticking them around their neighbourhoods and even on JJ Richards garbage trucks.

In order to tackle domestic violence we have to harness the energy of all the forces and all the voices in our community, because the community is the solution. As a community we must challenge the attitudes and cultures that have allowed domestic violence to fester in silence for way too long. I know that many members of this House were at the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month reception in the Premiers Hall last night to show their support. For that I say thank you. I believe that if we all stand up to say 'not now, not ever', we can make a real and lasting difference.