



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Budget, 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) (2.31 pm): I am sure that each and every member in this place has been hit hard by the shocking stories of domestic and family violence that we have heard over the past year. Our own and our community's exposure to the horrors of domestic and family violence have sparked a huge momentum for change. As Queensland's first Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, I have been overwhelmed by the community's response to tackling this issue and I am proud that the Palaszczuk government will deliver a package of almost \$200 million, a whole-of-government investment package, to tackle domestic and family violence.

Yesterday DVConnect Chief Executive, Di Mangan, said it was encouraging that the state government was making the additional investment at a time when front-line services are dealing with more family violence victims than ever before. Our government understands that we need to fill service gaps because every victim of domestic and family violence here in Queensland should have somewhere to turn to no matter where they live. That is why we will be providing \$43.1 million over four years for new and enhanced specialist and generalist services to address service gaps including counselling services, sexual assault services, a step-down women's health service and services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In fact, the Community Legal Centres Queensland yesterday thanked our government for funding vital counselling services for victims of sexual assault. We have also allocated \$8.7 million over four years to establish two new domestic violence shelters—one in Charters Towers where we have identified an immediate and urgent gap as well as another in a rural and remote location yet to be determined.

A large part of preventing further violence is, of course, identifying high-risk perpetrators early and reaching out to help victims of domestic and family violence as soon as possible. That is why we are investing \$10.3 million over four years for the rollout of perpetrator intervention services across the state as well as \$26.3 million to roll out eight high-risk teams as part of an integrated service response.

I participated as an observer in a men's domestic violence perpetrator program earlier this year. It revealed how vital these programs really are if we want to see generational change and a shift away from violence in our culture. Of course, it is vital that we continue to address those underlying attitudes and behaviours that feed the cycle of violence, which is why we have seen the allocation of \$9.6 million for a communication campaign that will really focus on challenging and changing those attitudes.

I look forward to working with my cabinet colleagues, department and stakeholders in rolling out these vital programs that will strengthen our commitment to reforming domestic violence policies and ensure that Queensland is a safer place for women and girls.