




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 30 August 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council, Report

 **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) (10.13 am): Last week Dame Quentin Bryce presented the Premier and me with the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council's six-month report, which the Premier has tabled this morning. As the report indicated, of the 121 recommendations targeted at government, we have already implemented 32 and a further 77 are underway. I am pleased to inform the House that since that report was written an additional five recommendations have been finalised.

Since accepting the report's recommendations, we have fast-tracked a number of legislative amendments to protect victims and hold perpetrators to account. We have opened two new domestic and family violence shelters in Brisbane and Townsville and funded the establishment of two more in Charters Towers and Roma. We are rolling out communication strategies, including the successful 'Not Now, Not Ever' community challenge during Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month, and our Respectful relationships education program for Queensland schools. We have set up a new specialist DV court trial at Southport and expanded the domestic violence duty lawyer service to help victims navigate the legal system.

There is clearly confidence in the system, as we have seen a record number of victims of domestic violence on the Gold Coast come forward seeking help at the Southport court. When the implementation council met at Mount Isa in April this year, I was pleased to join Dame Quentin Bryce at the North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service to announce Mount Isa as one of three locations for a domestic and family integrated service response trial—the others being at Logan and Cherbourg.

The trial at Cherbourg is a new approach to domestic and family violence that will explore the best way to respond to violence and abuse in homes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. While visiting Cherbourg earlier this month, I spoke with Mayor Arnold Murray and councillors from Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council and heard firsthand about domestic and family violence and the effect it has on local residents. I also met with two incredible local women—Aunty Grace Stanley and Aunty Lillian Gray—who told me about the women's group they championed and were keen to get up and running again to make a difference in their community.

It is stories like these from passionate advocates like Aunty Grace and Aunty Lillian that make me so proud that the Palaszczuk government is working incredibly hard towards eliminating domestic violence across Queensland by committing to addressing every recommendation from the *Not now, not ever* report and, of course, we have allocated a record \$200 million across government in this year's budget to achieve this.

I would like to thank the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council for their oversight role as we continue our work delivering on all of the recommendations in the report. I thank council members and Dame Quentin Bryce for the important role they have played in achieving our vision of a Queensland free from domestic and family violence.