




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Child Protection Week

 **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) (2.32 pm): We know that protecting children and young people is everyone's business, and that was the message heard far and wide during Queensland's Child Protection Week. More than 100 events and activities were held across Queensland to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Child Protection Week. I was lucky enough to celebrate at multiple events throughout the week including with Bravehearts, the Kingston East Neighbourhood Group and MercyCare. At the Queensland Child Protection Awards exceptional Queenslanders were recognised for the important role they play in keeping our children safe. Award winners included great organisations like Next Step After Care and dedicated individuals such as Ronny Taylor, a senior practitioner at the Bundaberg Child Safety Service Centre.

I was moved to join the Premier and survivors of childhood abuse in institutional settings at the Remembrance Day ceremony. During the week I also announced the next stage of our \$60 million hands-on family support package, which will create an additional 128 front-line jobs. I also announced a new \$2 million community campaign in partnership with NAPCAN to call on Queenslanders to play their part in keeping children safe. We are committed to supporting our most vulnerable families so they can continue to stay safely together.

In fact, Queensland is leading the way when it comes to innovative, driving reform in this area to save lives. Reforms such as our First 1000 Days program will provide vulnerable mums with extra support from conception until their child's second birthday, and the Bravehearts Turning Corners program helps young people who are exhibiting sexual behaviours. This morning I launched the world-first ReNew pilot, which is a program to help boys aged 10 to 18 and their mothers and to give them the skills to stop using violence as a form of control in their relationships.

Our stakeholders are supportive of our reforms. QATSICPP CEO Natalie Lewis welcomed our \$1.5 million investment in the First 1000 Days program because, as she said, there is great potential to make a positive impact on the futures of our most vulnerable children and families. NAPCAN President Teresa Scott said that it was exciting to see a state government prioritising the need for prevention. I want to take this opportunity to thank Act for Kids and the Child Protection Week committee for another outstanding effort. Although Child Protection Week has come to an end, I want to remind everyone that protecting children is the responsibility of all of us and we all have a role to play in keeping children safe.