




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Child Protection

 **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) (2.28 pm): I was pleased to speak in the House yesterday about additional staff in front-line and front-line support positions for Child Safety. While we are rebuilding capacity on the front line, we are also playing our part in prevention, as was recommended by the commission of inquiry. I was pleased to announce in Child Protection Week our \$2 million partnership with NAPCAN to run a statewide campaign urging Queenslanders to call out child abuse. This will be a whole-of-community education program that will engage all levels of the community from children and young people to families, professionals and decision-makers.

We also recognise the links between domestic violence and the horrible impact it has on children, so we have funded the ReNew initiative, a partnership between Carinity and the Domestic Violence Action Centre which is soon to be rolled out in Ipswich and south-western Brisbane. This groundbreaking program works with mothers and their adolescent sons and siblings to address abusive behaviours perpetrated by the young men towards their family members.

We have also funded Walking with Dads—a domestic violence informed approach to child protection work in Gympie and Mount Isa after a successful trial at Caboolture. By raising awareness and funding early intervention initiatives, we are seeing families reaching out for support earlier when it comes to protecting children. We have seen more than 12,000 families seek help through our earlier intervention and support services—Family and Child Connect. More than 20,000 people have accessed Triple P parenting support in recognition that parenting is not always easy and it is okay to ask for help. As Corey Parker said—

It makes sense to learn as much as you can about how to raise a happy, resilient family so you can prevent small issues from becoming major problems.

Of course, preventing child sexual abuse is an absolute priority. I was very pleased to stand with Hetty Johnston last month to launch their Turning Corners program. This unique service works with young people who have engaged in, or are at risk of engaging in, sexual abuse of others or sexual behaviour that is a high risk to themselves. I am a very proud former chairperson and secretary of the Centre Against Sexual Violence, which supports not only women who have experienced sexual violence but survivors of child sexual abuse through funding provided by the royal commission. I am pleased to see many members of the House wearing the teal ribbons provided to us today by CASV to mark Sexual Violence Awareness Month. I urge all members of the House to encourage people to seek help and play their part.