



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) (9.38 am): I, too, want to start by acknowledging the disturbing reports we are hearing of a violent attack in Hervey Bay this morning. While we do not yet have a lot of information, it is a sobering reminder of the challenges we face in tackling violence in our communities. This remains a critical priority for the Palaszczuk government, which is why I was so pleased that our Premier was successful in bringing to Brisbane last week the historic COAG summit to reduce violence against women and children.

Brisbane played host to our nation's leaders, best practitioners, researchers and influencers to discuss how we can all work together to combat violence against women and children. Along with Hetty Johnston, the founder of Bravehearts, I participated in a roundtable discussion on the insidious effects of domestic and family violence on children. We heard of wonderful programs and innovative approaches across the country, and we heard some heartbreaking stories of the kids who are being supported by these programs. I am pleased that the third national action plan, which was released at the summit, has children as one of the key focuses for the upcoming few years.

I was also very pleased to see that both nationally consistent domestic violence leave and the need for significant reform to the Family Court were both identified as priority areas moving forward, and I do hope that those opposite join us in advocating the Turnbull government to take action on these issues. Having brought our nation's leaders together, I am sure the enormous groundswell of support we have seen in recent years to tackle domestic and family violence will continue. The Palaszczuk government is committed to playing our part. Our most recent demonstration of that commitment is more than \$10 million for new and enhanced domestic and family violence services. This additional investment will deliver services like court support at the Beenleigh Magistrates Court; additional counselling, referring and advice to be delivered in Ipswich; a new service to operate out of the Caboolture Police Station to provide support for women after police attend their home for a domestic and family violence incident; and perpetrator programs in Moreton Bay.

Violence against women is recognised as both a cause and a consequence of gender inequality, which is why I was so pleased yesterday to release the Palaszczuk government's Violence Against Women Prevention Plan, which will drive action against all forms of violence against women, including sexual violence. One in five women will experience sexual violence by the age of 15. This plan brings together actions addressing all forms of violence against women with a particular focus on tackling violence against disadvantaged women and new and emerging forms of violence, and it outlines actions across key themes of respect, safety and justice. The Palaszczuk government is walking the talk when it comes to protecting and supporting women, and we are working towards a future where violence against women is not only unacceptable but also non-existent.