



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2017

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Ice**

 **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) (2.37 pm): Many of us would know that the scourge of ice continues to tear communities and families apart. This morning, the Premier and the health minister were at the RBWH to launch Queensland's draft strategy to tackle this drug, which builds on our \$43 million investment in drug and alcohol support services.

We also know from listening to our hardworking front-line child safety staff that ice abuse is, sadly, a major issue for families known to Child Safety. The steep increase in ice in our homes has been described to me at child safety service centres in Ipswich, Maroochydore, Logan and North Queensland—in fact, almost all of the centres that I have visited recently. The latest data from my department shows that ice was more common than any other drug type in households known to Child Safety, including alcohol. It revealed that one in every three children coming into out-of-home care had a parent who was or had been using ice in the 12 months prior.

Ice is a growing issue confronting child safety workers on the front line, as well as Queensland kids who may be at risk of harm. That is why we introduced tough new measures requiring parents who want to care for their kids at home to be subject to mandatory drug testing. Since the announcement in November last year, I can report to the House that 170 tests have been conducted. This new policy is already keeping kids safe and giving our hardworking child safety officers another tool in their arsenal. I want to emphasise that my department works hard to link parents who want to clean up their act with support services.

Drug testing parents is just one piece in our multilayered approach to tackling this growing community problem. I want to acknowledge the Premier's commitment to hosting our first ever ice summit in Rockhampton, as well as the health minister's \$6 million commitment for ice intervention units based in Queensland hospitals.

We are getting the balance right in being tough on perpetrators, in protecting at-risk children and in making sure support services are funded and resourced to help. Stamping out this drug will create a safer, stronger Queensland community and help keep our kids safe.