




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) (10.11 am): I am incredibly proud of the progress we have made in improving services for women and children who are experiencing domestic and family violence. The Palaszczuk government has opened the first new shelters in over 20 years, with two more to come. This parliament has passed several laws to increase protection for women and to hold perpetrators to account, and we are funding more and more programs on the ground across Queensland to support women and change perpetrator behaviour. However, it is about more than implementing the *Not now, not ever* recommendations, of which 55 are now complete and action has been taken on all of the remaining. It is also, importantly, about cultural change.

We are reaching the end of Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month, and it has been heartening to see so many organisations take up the *Not now, not ever* challenge. If we include attendance at the Cowboys NRL and the Suns AFL DV round footy matches, the DV prevention month events have included over 33,000 Queenslanders.

One of the most important events held this month was the 'Umi One, Mepla Way', the first-ever domestic and family violence prevention conference on Thursday Island. As both ministerial champion for the Torres Strait and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, I was so proud to join key partners and community champions from most of the Torres Strait Islands at the conference last week. My department proudly sponsored this conference, and it was moving to sit with elders, emerging community leaders and people who work in services that help victims of violence every day.

Aunties, uncles, police and local councillors all yarned about ending violence against women, achieving gender equality and tackling the attitudes and behaviours that underpin a cycle of violence. An incredible contribution came from NRL great and TI local Michael Barni, who told his story of growing up in a house of violence and of his own use of violence. He is now a powerful advocate for the power of behavioural change programs and works with Indigenous youth to connect to culture and reject violence.

During this month we also announced extra funding for DV services including \$130,000 for the Redlands Centre for Women in Cleveland to employ a counsellor. This came to my attention after the member for Capalaba, Don Brown, organised meetings and made representations on their behalf. It would be hard to find a stronger, more effective voice in the Redlands than Don Brown.

Speaking of the Redlands, I also recently attended an annual domestic family violence fundraising dinner by Mayor Karen Williams and the Redlands City Council. A big congratulations to the mayor and the council. Whether it is remote Indigenous communities or councils in the south-east corner, all across Queensland people have embraced the month and I wish to place on the record my sincere gratitude and appreciation.