




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Domestic and Family Violence, One Nation Policy

 **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) (11.01 am): Yesterday we saw One Nation release a dangerous and ill-informed domestic violence policy—a policy that, if implemented, would put the lives of Queensland women and children at risk. The One Nation policy demands equal access to children for both parents, even if one of them is perpetrating violence. This approach would put children directly in harm's way, as violent behaviour, even if it is not directed towards the child, causes ongoing damage to these children that can take years to recover from.

The Palaszczuk government has invested heavily in the creation of specialised domestic violence courts, with protocols and a design to keep victims safe. The One Nation policy would force both parents to face court at the same time, potentially putting the safety of victims at further risk and retraumatising victims.

We acknowledge that both men and women are the victims of domestic and family violence. The Queensland government funds services across the state that cater for both male and female victims of abuse and violence, and will continue to do so. Unlike One Nation, we will not take a backward step when it comes to holding perpetrators to account for their violent behaviour and we will continue to work to change the attitudes and behaviours that underpin the cycle of violence.

It was only last year that Pauline Hanson used her maiden speech in the Senate to say that victims of domestic violence were being murdered because of men's frustration with the system. Former Australian of the Year Rosie Batty, an inspiration to people across the nation, quite rightly pointed out that this excuse was yet another example of victim blaming. Let us be absolutely clear about this: the people to blame for killing women in their homes are the perpetrators carrying out the violence.

One Nation's policy also requires proof of injuries before a domestic violence order is made. This shows an appalling lack of understanding of the insidious control, mental abuse and threats, including threats made against children, and not to mention financial abuse, stalking, tampering with cars. There is a long list of tools that perpetrators use to keep their victim living in constant fear while deliberately not leaving physical evidence.

The Palaszczuk government has made tremendous progress in bringing domestic and family violence out from behind closed doors, and massively expanded the services for those who make the brave decision to leave a violent relationship. There is more to be done. I can promise that we will not take a backwards step.

I am heartened today to see that the LNP has come out and blasted this dangerous policy. It is one thing to speak out against domestic violence, but it is another to take action. If there were ever a day for the LNP to take action and announce that they will be putting One Nation last on every how-to-vote card in every single electorate, today is surely the day. That is the only way this dangerous policy never becomes a reality.