




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Community Organisations, Funding

 **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) (10.08 am): Recently I was thrilled to provide ACT for Kids on the Gold Coast almost \$5 million in funding and a five-year funding contract. ACT for Kids is one of 117 organisations across the state that has been given certainty and security by the Palaszczuk government because funding has now been locked in for five years instead of the previous process of three-year contracts.

ACT for Kids offers services including counselling, parenting programs and in-home family support. As the Premier has said, having funding secured for five years means that organisations can plan their services with certainty and better retain and recruit experienced staff. We want certainty for our neighbourhood centres, sexual abuse counselling services, domestic and family violence services and family support services right across Queensland. Dedicated local community sector workers and the Queenslanders they help are benefiting from this change at the Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre, the Wide Bay Women's Health Centre, the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence, the Toowoomba Youth Service and the Cairns Family Intervention Service.

Across the state the Palaszczuk government is providing \$387 million in funding to organisations under five-year contracts so that they can get on with building the vital fabric of their Queensland communities. This is in sharp contrast to the previous LNP government. As we have heard this morning from the Premier, they ripped more than \$63 million from these vital front-line community delivered services.

Hard as it is to believe, the LNP cut funding to domestic violence shelters, the Alcohol and Drug Foundation, the Create Foundation, Good Shepherd Microfinance and Life Without Barriers. They slashed funding to the Mackay Youth Support Service, Save the Children and the Queensland Council of Social Service. Those cuts all led to local jobs being lost and services wound back in each of our local communities. The damage that did was compounded by the uncertainty it created. It was hard to plan, hard to retain staff and hard to deliver the services that families need. That is the LNP's legacy.

Almost three years on, the member for Clayfield still has not apologised for the time he was treasurer when he inflicted \$63 million worth of cuts to the community services sector. The Palaszczuk government is a government that cares about Queenslanders. I am proud to have helped deliver the \$387 million in funding for five-year contracts for our hardworking community services.