



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 March 2017

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Domestic Violence Order Applications; Political Donations, Real-Time Disclosure**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.10 am): I am pleased to announce that the Palaszczuk government is taking yet another step towards assisting victims of domestic and family violence. Yesterday we launched a form where people will be able to go online and access an online form to guide them through the process of applying for a protection order. One of our election commitments was to investigate ways to streamline domestic violence order applications and court processes for police and victims, and reduce the stress and complication of the process. This website is delivering on that commitment.

We can only imagine what domestic violence victims go through when they are in an abusive situation, and the courage it takes to apply for a protection order. This online form is designed to make the process easier for those victims, and will help guide them through the process in an intuitive and personal way. The online form can be completed on any device. This user-friendly tool will take people step-by-step through the process of applying for a protection order.

It will also help define complicated legal terminology, provide information about where to get help and explain the court process. Importantly, there will also be a quick exit button so users will be able to quickly and discreetly leave the site. Before this tool was available, victims would have to fill out paper based forms. Research in 2014 found some people found the paper based form complicated and difficult to understand. Now people can access this online tool anywhere, at any time.

I would like to thank the collaborative effort of government agencies, the Chief Magistrate and various support services in developing this online tool, which has been tested with people who have actually applied for a protection order in the past two years. The online form represents another key response by the Palaszczuk government to the *Not now, not ever* report and all of the recommendations we accepted. We have accepted every one of the report's recommendations, with 46 having already been completed and the remaining 75 currently underway.

In addition, yesterday we launched real-time disclosure on the Electoral Commission of Queensland's website. I remind all members of parliament that when they now receive a donation they must declare that donation online within seven business days. At the end of this month all political parties will have to submit their six-monthly return for 1 July through 31 December 2016 which means all of those disclosures will be—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I do not know who is interjecting, but if I can identify you you will be warned under standing order 253A or 252. I do not know who the member for Gaven is having a discussion with. Is it with the member for Ipswich West? You will both be referred to if you are having a discussion across the chamber. This is an important matter.

**Mrs D'ATH:** All of that information will be publicly available by the end of the month. Importantly, yesterday Transparency International Australia released the world's largest survey on public experience of corruption and noted that the rest of the country should now be looking to follow Queensland's reforms to ensure that there is transparency around political disclosure. We support the chairman's call to see the Commonwealth and other states follow our lead on this important reform.