




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.08 am): The Palaszczuk government's vision for thriving Queensland communities is one where people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities can participate; where all people are included and resilient and enjoy high levels of social and economic wellbeing. We all know that our colleague and friend Coralee O'Rourke will be back at work as soon as she can. I am confident that she will apply the same level of strength and resilience to her recovery that she brings every day to the job that she loves.

As the Acting Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, I am pleased to continue the important work of Minister Coralee O'Rourke in delivering this vision. In the last 12 months, Minister O'Rourke has worked to deliver a broad range of achievements to help improve the lives of Queenslanders, including: led the whole-of-government implementation of the NDIS transition; supported front-line staff to continue delivering quality services; reduced the number of people on the Register of Need to zero in those areas that have fully transitioned to the NDIS; launched the *All abilities Queensland: opportunities for all—state disability plan 2017-2020*; invested over \$140 million in community care services that assisted over 33,000 Queenslanders; funded 124 neighbourhood centres and committed to building two more and replacing or refurbishing a further six across our state; expanded the School Breakfast Program across an additional 70 schools; provided \$4.6 million for elder abuse prevention and response; created a dedicated community services directorate to lead the work of our Thriving Communities agenda; and exceeded the Queensland public sector benchmarks in all four diversity target groups.

This list demonstrates how seriously the Palaszczuk government takes its commitment to improving the lives of vulnerable Queenslanders. Our government will continue to invest to ensure every Queenslanders has the best opportunity to achieve their goals and aspirations. Over the coming weeks I will be continuing to deliver on our agenda to create and grow thriving communities and working hard for our seniors and Queenslanders with disability. The sector can rest assured that there will be no disruption to the excellent relationship they have with government and our work to build inclusive and supportive communities will continue.

On behalf of us all, I echo the Premier's comments and wish Minister O'Rourke a speedy recovery and look forward to welcoming the minister back to work in the near future.