



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


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 3 May 2018

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Domestic and Family Violence**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (10.07 am): As we mark Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month, I would like to update the House on the many legislative reforms the Palaszczuk government has introduced to address these crimes. The Palaszczuk government has zero tolerance for domestic and family violence. That is why we ensured that a circumstance of aggravation of domestic and family violence can be applied to all criminal offences when committed in a domestic violence setting. We amended the Criminal Code in 2015 to ensure that a person's criminal record notes whether an offence was committed in a domestic and family violence context. Importantly, as at the end of March 2018, as a consequence of those changes, almost 28,000 charges lodged across Queensland had been noted as having been committed in a domestic and family violence context.

We introduced into the Queensland Criminal Code the standalone offence of choking, suffocation or strangulation, which carries a maximum penalty of seven years jail. At the end of March, 1,621 charges had been lodged in relation to 1,469 defendants. The Palaszczuk government has increased the maximum penalty for breaches of domestic violence orders and we have streamlined the processing of these DVO applications and allowed courts to increase these orders to up to five years. We have introduced and funded a permanent specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court in Southport. We have extended this specialist court to Townsville, with circuits to Mount Isa and Palm Island, and will also operate a specialist domestic and family violence court at Beenleigh. We have introduced greater protections for victims who appear as witnesses in such hearings.

We recognise there is more to be done and that a true cultural shift is required to prevent domestic violence in the first place. However, I can assure Queenslanders we are committed to legal reforms which protect victims and hold offenders to account.