



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2021

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Domestic and Family Violence**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.08 am): A year ago last week, Australia was left shocked, angered and heartbroken following the tragic murders of Hannah Clarke and her three children. The anniversary of the deaths is a tragic reminder of the insidious nature of domestic and family violence and so, too, was the news overnight of the townhouse fire in Browns Plains where two bodies were found, with police confirming a domestic violence order had been issued. Any death from domestic and family violence is absolutely unacceptable. My deepest sympathies are with those affected by these tragic incidents.

Our government's resolve to end the scourge of domestic and family violence is stronger than ever. Last week, the Premier and I announced the establishment of an independent task force led by the Hon. Margaret McMurdo AC. The task force will examine the issue of coercive control and make recommendations on how best to legislate against coercive control as a form of domestic and family violence.

This commitment is a significant step forward in taking action against coercive control and illustrates our determination to end domestic and family violence. We have committed to consulting extensively with a wide range of survivors, domestic and sexual violence service providers, legal and domestic violence experts and the community in the development of a new approach to tackling coercive control.

The consultation will include Hannah Clarke's parents, Sue and Lloyd. In the face of insurmountable grief Sue and Lloyd have worked tirelessly to raise awareness of domestic and family violence in Australia and the behaviour of coercive control so that other families do not have to experience the pain that they have endured. I want to pay tribute to Sue and Lloyd Clarke for all the work they have done to bring about this change and to the many other advocates and leaders within the sector who have been calling for this.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to continuing to lead a program of reform to end domestic and family violence in Queensland which is why we have invested \$152 million in this financial year to ensure the safety of Queensland women and children. While we have made significant progress with all of the 140 recommendations of the landmark report *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland* having now been implemented, we know we still have much more work to do. Today we honour and remember Hannah and her three children and all victims of domestic and family violence and we all in this House recommit to doing everything we can to prevent domestic and family violence in Queensland to better protect victims and hold perpetrators to account.