



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 April 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) (10.01 am): Every death from domestic and family violence is unacceptable and a tragedy. My deepest sympathies go out to the family of Kelly Wilkinson and in particular her three young children. Enough is enough.

Since 2015 we have invested over half a billion dollars towards ending domestic and family violence; however, we know clearly that there is much more work to do, especially in the light of COVID-19, which has increased violence against women in our community. During the pandemic almost one in 10 women in a relationship in this country experienced domestic and family violence, with two-thirds saying the violence started or escalated during lockdowns. The Palaszczuk government was swift to respond to the increasing demand on domestic, family and sexual violence services with an immediate funding boost of \$7.5 million. Working with the federal government we were also able to secure \$25 million through the COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Responses national partnership agreement.

Today I am very pleased, along with the Premier, to announce a further \$2.5 million that will be distributed through our domestic and family violence COVID grants for 23 projects. These projects will be delivered from the Torres Strait to the Gold Coast and will deliver innovative responses to the impacts of COVID across sexual violence and domestic and family violence. The funding is going to groups like: the Red Rose Foundation to allow them to take their incredible advocacy and research into non-lethal strangulation online; the North Queensland Women's Legal Service to help them provide domestic and family violence victims with quality legal assistance; and the Centre for Women to help them expand their services to provide men and their aggrieved mental health and domestic and family violence support. They include projects to be delivered for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, LGBTIQ communities, young people, men using violence, and culturally diverse communities.

Women all across Queensland need these services, and it is crucial that all levels of government continue to support them because women's lives depend on it.