



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.06 am): May is Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month. Now more than ever it is so important that we continue to raise awareness and let victims know that they are not alone and that support is on hand. We all know that on top of a particularly difficult year with COVID, the events of recent weeks and months have been incredibly distressing and continue to remind us of the devastating impact of domestic and family violence on our communities.

This week we launched a new domestic and family violence prevention campaign to recognise the variety of forms that domestic violence can take. Most Queenslanders know how to recognise physical domestic and family violence, but we also know financial abuse, social abuse, isolation and technology based abuse can be just as dangerous. That is why we have launched a new domestic and family violence awareness campaign to help Queenslanders recognise all forms of domestic and family violence and what they can do if their friend or family member is experiencing this violence.

The theme of Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month this year is 'We all play our part', and we do all play our part—government, communities, organisations, corporations and individuals. However, at the end of the day, a large part of the responsibility comes down to so many of the hardworking women and men who work on the front line of our domestic, family and sexual violence services. They sit in a room or on the phone with vulnerable women and children and support them to safety and help them to rebuild their lives.

Last night I had the pleasure of hosting some of these incredible frontline workers to thank them for the incredible work they do each and every day. Each of these workers can be managing up to 50 cases—each of them with unique concerns and risk factors. They support Queensland women and children, listen to their stories, believe them, develop intricate safety planning and do life-saving risk management planning every day. As Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month comes to an end, it is important that we all acknowledge and thank these frontline staff, and reflect on how we can do more to play our part in ending violence against women and their children.