



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 May 2021

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Investing in Queensland Women; National Sorry Day**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.58 am): In February this year I was pleased to announce the release of a new grant program to support community groups to advance gender equality. The Investing in Queensland Women program will provide \$540,000 through two rounds of funding each year, with grants of up to \$15,000 available to support community initiatives that help address issues that affect women's status and roles in our community and restrict women's full participation in the economic, social and cultural opportunities that Queensland offers.

Today I am very pleased to announce that \$270,000 will be distributed through the inaugural Investing in Queensland Women grant round for 32 projects. These projects will be delivered from Kubin on Moa Island in the Torres Strait and Normanton in the gulf to Southport on the Gold Coast. They include initiatives focusing on domestic and family violence prevention, sexual violence prevention, healthy relationships, women's health, and women's leadership and mentoring. The funding is going to groups like the Queensland Farmers' Federation to support the financial security of farm business women through business and transition planning; the LGBTQ Domestic Violence Awareness Foundation to develop resources that will help communities and workplaces to recognise and respond to the unique and often complex experiences of domestic and family violence for LGBTQ people; and the Tech Girls Movement to establish five clubs around Queensland as safe spaces for girls to learn about computing and to engage in STEM.

The funding is supporting projects to be delivered for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; people with a disability; LGBTQ people; people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; people living in rural, regional and remote communities; young people; and older people. I am pleased that such a diverse range of projects will support women from right across Queensland and I look forward to seeing the outcomes.

Earlier in the year I also sat down with Sue and Lloyd Clarke, who talked to me about the work they are doing educating mothers and their daughters around coercive control. Alarming, among the initial 30 teenagers they worked with, three identified that their relationships had signs of coercive control. I am pleased that through our Investing in Queensland Women grants they, in partnership with Beyond DV, will also be able to continue this work and help us educate more young people on the dangers of coercive control. I can also announce that applications for round 2 will open on 1 July this year.

While I am on my feet, I also acknowledge National Sorry Day. It is a day when we acknowledge the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were forcibly removed from their families, which we now know as the stolen generations. It is a day of reflection and a day of healing, and as a nation we move forward together by saying sorry.