




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Women

 **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): Now more than ever women are looking to government to invest in programs that address inequality, promote respect and support their economic recovery. That is why the Palaszczuk government has kept women front and centre of our budget as outlined in the 2021-22 Queensland women's budget statement. The Premier has identified gender pay and superannuation gaps, safe and respectful workplaces and other issues that hold back women's economic security and participation on the national agenda. Now, industry and community organisations have welcomed our women's budget statement and investment. CEO of Micah Projects, Karyn Walsh, said—

The budget has some really welcome news and it's great to see the women's economic statement so that government really is going through their investment with the lens of 'how does it really impact women'.

We know women were impacted by COVID and its going to take time and intention to really support women back into economic participation, get them back into the workforce and address the issues that impact them like DV and housing.

It's great to see dedicated money for women to get the housing services they need.

In this year's budget we are investing more than \$155 million to respond to violence against women. We are investing \$160 million to provide housing and housing support services to vulnerable Queenslanders, including women impacted by violence, because every Queenslander deserves to have somewhere safe to stay. We have also continued investment in women's health services, including \$60 million for breast screening services. We are ensuring there are secure job pathways for women through our Back to Work program, which has already supported more than 10,600 women into jobs, and we have made our Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative permanent, with more than 31,000 women already having benefited from the program.

Rebecca Andrews, head of Queensland's Ai Group, welcomed our investment in skilling Queensland women in manufacturing. She said, 'Attracting, retaining and promoting highly skilled women into the sector will be key to further innovation and growth.' We are creating skills pathways for women with our free TAFE initiative, supporting more women back into male dominated industries and equipping them with new skills, and our big plans for small business will support innovative and entrepreneurial women achieve business success.

This is our sixth women's budget statement because we know that ensuring women's equality at home, in public and at work requires leadership. This is in stark contrast to the federal LNP, who eight years ago scrapped the delivery of a women's budget statement—a bipartisan practice lasting 30 years that was initiated under the Hawke Labor government. It was in fact scrapped by then prime minister Tony Abbott, who was also the minister for women at the time. It took women marching in the streets this year saying 'enough is enough' to force the Morrison government to take notice and finally introduce

the women's budget statement this year. Queensland women and girls can be confident that the Palaszczuk government sees them and is investing in their safety, their success and their economic inclusion.