




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Domestic and Family Violence, Programs; International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance 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) (10.27 am): Domestic and family violence can impact anyone, but we know that women from culturally and linguistically diverse communities can experience unique forms of abuse and additional barriers to reporting violence, seeking support and escaping a domestic and family violence situation. Too often women from these backgrounds can feel isolated, often through language barriers and not knowing where to seek help when experiencing violence or abuse at home.

That is why the Palaszczuk government has committed \$1 million in extra support for community organisations to respond to sexual, domestic and family violence in our culturally and linguistically diverse communities. I am pleased to advise that a new safe and diverse communities grants program will open today. The grants will be available over four years to 2024, with \$250,000 available each year to provide grants of between \$10,000 and \$25,000 to successful applicants. The grants will strengthen the capacity of Queensland's culturally and linguistically diverse communities to address family violence and all forms of violence against women through innovative, culturally appropriate, tailored primary prevention projects and initiatives.

We have worked closely with culturally and linguistically diverse representatives and organisations to make sure this grants program will remove barriers for our multicultural women and families to access support and escape violence. I encourage any community group or organisation that wants to take action to end violence against women in their communities to put forward an application.

Mr Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day, which is tomorrow. I acknowledge your words earlier this morning and acknowledge the loss that you and your wife suffered. Around one in four pregnancies ends in miscarriage. However, even now it is still a topic that is rarely discussed and acknowledged.

Every year around 3,000 babies are lost through stillbirth or newborn death. This is a day to acknowledge the loss and to end the stigma associated with pregnancy loss and infant death. Still now it remains a topic that we rarely discuss and so many often still feel shame. We know that experiencing a miscarriage or stillbirth can be an extremely difficult time. That is why we have made sure that our Queensland government employees have access to two days bereavement leave if they or their spouse suffer a miscarriage and 14 weeks full-paid leave if an employee experiences a stillbirth. We all have a responsibility to help end this stigma and ensure that families that are impacted are supported.