




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce

 **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): I rise to update the House on the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce chaired by the Hon. Margaret McMurdo AC. I can confirm that the task force will be finalising its report today and I look forward to receiving the report from the task force chair and being briefed on its findings this Thursday. I can also advise that I will be releasing the task force report on the same day to ensure that the many hundreds of Queenslanders who have bravely shared their stories can read the recommendations of the task force.

I would also like to acknowledge the incredible work of the task force members. These are complex issues. Queensland is leading the way. We will make sure we get legislation against coercive control right to avoid any unintended consequences. I also want to acknowledge all of the victim survivors who shared their experiences with the task force. The task force received over 700 submissions, the overwhelming majority coming from women with a lived experience. These submissions are available on the task force's website, and I would encourage everyone to read through them. One woman wrote in her submission—

There were no laws of coercive control, and I couldn't explain it to the people around me so how could I explain it to the police.

I want her and all of the countless survivors who have come forward to know: we see you, we hear you and we believe you. I have heard from countless women who were victims of this insidious form of abuse but did not know how to describe what was happening to them to anyone else. I am proud that the Palaszczuk government has committed to legislating against coercive control. A big part of this work will be to educate the community on how to recognise and report coercive control.

Today is part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. Now in its 30th year, this is an important opportunity to raise awareness about violence against women and how together we can end it. Tonight, parliament will be lit up orange as part of the 'Orange the world' campaign. I thank you, Mr Speaker, for your support. I encourage all members to use this campaign as an opportunity to raise awareness of all forms of men's violence against women.