



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2021

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' 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) (2.03 pm): I am very pleased to table a report from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce: *Hear her voice*.

*Tabled paper:* Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report titled 'Hear her voice—Report 1: Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland', Volume 1 [2059](#).

*Tabled paper:* Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report titled 'Hear her voice—Report 1: Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland', Volume 2 [2060](#).

*Tabled paper:* Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report titled 'Hear her voice—Report 1: Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland', Volume 3 [2061](#).

I would like to say to the over 700 brave victim survivors who have come forward to share their stories, 'We hear your voice and we will listen.' The government will now carefully consider all 89 recommendations. Coercive control is a dangerous form of domestic violence used to instil fear in victims. Fundamentally, it is about power and control and the belief too many men have that they are entitled to this power over women.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Sue and Lloyd Clarke, who have, since the death of their daughter Hannah and their three beautiful grandchildren, shared their story to raise so much community awareness about this dangerous abuse. Sue and Lloyd are here today in the public gallery, and I want to thank them so much for their advocacy.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms FENTIMAN:** This report recommends criminalising coercive control. However, the report is also clear that we cannot criminalise this behaviour until our systems, our community and our first responders understand, identify and know how to respond to this form of abuse. This is a complex issue, and the task force is clear that moving to a criminal offence requires a staged approach. It does include recommendations for immediate legislative reform, including modernising the offence of unlawful stalking to capture technology facilitated abuse and amendments to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act to clarify definitions and reduce the incidents of perpetrators using cross-applications to continue inflicting violence and coercion on their victims.

The task force also includes several recommendations aimed at improving both police and judicial responses to domestic and family violence. The report acknowledges the hard work of the Queensland Police Service in responding to ever-increasing reports of domestic and family violence and recognises the leadership of the Queensland Police Service in this regard. The task force notes that every day hardworking police officers are saving the lives of women and girls, and in many instances police themselves are experiencing vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue due to the

increasingly high numbers of reports and case complexity. However, in many submissions the task force heard that women did not get an appropriate response from the police and there is always more that can be done. Likewise, the task force acknowledges the work of our courts and judicial officers but emphasises the need for further reform and training to create a more trauma informed system.

To the chair, the Hon. Margaret McMurdo, the task force members and the secretariat staff, thank you for your dedication and hard work. Thank you for being the custodians of the stories of so many Queenslanders who have suffered due to this insidious form of abuse.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): I too would like to acknowledge the constituents of my electorate, Sue and Lloyd Clarke, and thank them for the work they do in our community.