




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszcuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Domestic and Family Violence, Coercive Control

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.32 am): Happy Friday to everyone.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Are you happy?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Through the chair and there is no muck-up day.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In May this year our government committed to introducing the most wide-ranging new laws to combat domestic and family violence, specifically targeting and making coercive control a criminal offence. Today we take the first important and significant step towards achieving that. Today we will introduce into parliament the first round of legislative reforms to strengthen Queensland's response to coercive control.

The Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce was very clear: we must take the time to get it right. Therefore, the bill to be introduced today lays the foundation for the passage next year of a standalone offence of coercive control. In a moment the Attorney-General will outline the key elements of the legislation to be introduced today, the intent of which is to ensure our laws keep pace with modern technology and the nature of stalking, focus on changing our approach to domestic violence and, foremost, strengthen our systems to ensure the protection of those people most at risk while at the same time holding perpetrators to account.

Today is a historic day in terms of how we address the insidious scourge of domestic violence and coercive control. My government has listened to the hundreds if not thousands of voices of people right throughout our state who want us to do more and act to address this abhorrent and dangerous behaviour. It is a sad fact that coercive control is real and it is happening in our community. Tragically and frighteningly, many women are subject to daily intimidation, control of their lives and control of their every move. Often they are isolated from their families and their friends, and are subject to horrific psychological and emotional manipulation. Unfortunately, that behaviour is the most common factor leading to violence, often leading to homicide. It has to end.

My government's historic and wide-reaching reforms will protect victims. They will penalise offenders. The reforms we are introducing today will strengthen our state's response to coercive control before the introduction of a standalone offence by the end of next year.