



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 February 2022

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Domestic and Family Violence, Coercive Control**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.10 am): On the weekend I had the pleasure of joining Sue and Lloyd Clarke to commemorate the second anniversary of the death of Hannah Clarke and her three beautiful children—Aaliyah, Laianah and Trey. Two years ago our community was changed by the loss of four innocent lives. I was honoured to join Sue and Lloyd along with frontline responders and supporters from their foundation, Small Steps 4 Hannah, to keep their memory alive.

Sue and Lloyd have used their tragedy to educate others on coercive control. That is why they were acknowledged as Queenslanders of the Year for their work. Coercive control is a dangerous form of domestic violence used to instil fear in victims. Perpetrators use tactics such as isolating a woman from her friends and family, tracking her movements and controlling her access to money, where she goes and what she wears. Fundamentally, this is about power and control and the belief that too many men have that they are entitled to this power.

It was the advocacy of Sue and Lloyd Clarke and other victim survivors that informed the work of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce and the government's commitment to criminalise it. However, the report is also clear that we cannot criminalise this behaviour until our systems and the community understand, identify and know how to respond to this form of abuse. It is complex. The task force is clear that moving to a criminal offence requires a staged approach. We must educate the community on what is coercive control. Sue and Lloyd have been using their story to help with this education. Partnering with Carolyn Robinson from Beyond DV, Sue has been talking to mothers and daughters to help them recognise the signs of a controlling relationship. Two years on, I want to thank Sue and Lloyd for creating a legacy for Hannah and her children and for helping us to keep other women and children safe.