




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Federal Budget, Women

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.36 am): Back in 2020 the budget was pretty grim for women. In the midst of the pandemic recession that, on the one hand, disproportionately destroyed women's paid work and, on the other hand, created a whole new pile of unpaid work for them, the budget failed to deliver. In the words of Annabel Crabb, 'The 2020 budget was like waking up on your birthday to find your husband has given you a lawnmower.'

Mr Brown: That's a good idea!

Ms FENTIMAN: Trust me, Don: don't do it! It won't be good for you. A year later, though, the mood had changed. After brave women like Grace Tame and Brittany Higgins came forward, a groundswell of women marched across the country and, finally, the government began to pay attention—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms FENTIMAN: As I was saying, the government finally started to pay attention to the needs of women. This budget somewhat continues in that direction. Perhaps they are trying to court the women who, according to polls, are abandoning the LNP in droves. Perhaps they have finally discovered that these issues exist. I am sure Jenny had a part to play in all of that! In any event, the result is a \$1.3 billion investment in women's safety, but it seems that this is another Morrison short-term fix.

For each and every subsequent year in real terms the budget allocation to women's safety declines. In three years time, the funding will be half what it is next year. Even the women in his own party seem to know that Scott Morrison is not focused on improving the lives of women. On the very night the budget was delivered Senator Fierravanti-Wells said of Scott Morrison, 'He has no moral compass,' and 'He is not fit to be Prime Minister.'

This budget fails to deliver meaningful change for Queensland women. While I welcome the \$1.8 million investment over three years in Working Women's Centres, the budget has failed to deliver the 55 recommendations of Respect@Work. When will they accept all of those recommendations?

The federal government has failed to deliver paid domestic and family violence leave, despite overwhelming calls from both the business community and unions. One of the biggest omissions from the budget is support for long-term housing solutions for women and children escaping domestic and family violence. I welcome the commitment to continue investing in emergency refuge accommodation but, if there is no affordable accommodation to transition to, where do women go? Considering we are in a national housing crisis, the federal government needs to step up and play its part. The federal government will face its test in a few short months. Will it be enough to win back the votes of women? As Jess Marszalek wrote of this year's budget—

Morrison needs to show women that he gets why he's annoyed them and, with an election fast approaching, he hasn't got long to do it.