



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 31 March 2022

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Women's Strategy**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.06 am): The Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to empowering Queensland women and girls to succeed and is continuing to invest in their safety, health and wellbeing. As the Premier announced this morning, we have now released our new Queensland Women's Strategy. The new strategy makes a strong statement about the Palaszczuk government's commitment to raising the status of women and working towards gender equality. The strategy provides a basis for ensuring that policies and decisions are informed and influenced by women's voices, both now and into the future. It was developed through extensive consultation with stakeholders and the community and indicates the steps we will take together to shift the dial on gender equality here in Queensland. It is critical that we all work together.

I would like to particularly acknowledge all of the women of the Queensland Women's Strategy advisory group. I would like to thank the over 1,500 Queenslanders who completed the Women's Strategy survey, the more than 100 stakeholders who provided written submissions and everyone who attended the many consultation events.

We know that women have been hardest hit by job losses and ongoing underemployment as a result of the pandemic. They have also shouldered the majority of caring responsibilities and sadly still represent overwhelmingly the majority of victims of domestic and family violence. The ABS found that of the jobs lost across Australia between June and September last year, 60 per cent were women. The main overarching priority of the Women's Strategy is women's economic security—because we know that it is central to achieving every other aspect of gender equality.

The Queensland Women's Strategy also focuses on: the safety, health and wellbeing of women; elevating First Nations women; women with diverse backgrounds and experiences; and empowerment and recognition of women and girls. I especially want to acknowledge the First Nations women and girls of Queensland and the unique experiences and contributions they make. True gender equality cannot come unless outcomes for First Nations women are improved. Now more than ever, Queensland women and girls are looking to the government to lead the way in addressing these inequalities.

The new Queensland Women's Strategy is a bold statement for the next five years to achieve our vision for women and girls in Queensland. Our vision is that women and girls have equal rights and equal access to all opportunities in Queensland and that women and girls are safe, valued and able to freely participate and succeed in the economic, social and cultural opportunities available. We must build on the momentum, keep stepping up, move forward and contribute to the change. We all have a part to play in achieving gender equality.

Thank you to everyone who supported the strategy. I look forward to continuing our work as we strive to improve the status of women and girls.