




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Federal Labor Government, 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) (9.57 am): Last year women across the nation marched to demand justice and safety. The groundswell they created would not be silenced, and it is these very women who have now delivered the Morrison government the reckoning they failed to act on last year. These women have used their votes to elect members of parliament who are committed to tackling gender inequality and fighting for women's safety. They have elected a government—an Albanese Labor government—that will deliver outcomes for women and girls.

The Albanese government will make it easier for families, in particular working mums, to re-enter the workforce with affordable child care. We know that during COVID-19 more women lost their jobs than men and they overwhelmingly shouldered the majority of additional caring responsibilities. A federal Labor government will: lift the maximum childcare subsidy rate to 90 per cent; increase childcare subsidy rates for families earning less than \$530,000; and extend the increased subsidy to outside school hours care. This will make it easier for women to re-enter the workforce as we focus on our post-COVID economic recovery.

Failures in aged care, whether it is terrible food, substandard care or low paid, insecure work, also overwhelmingly impact women. There are almost twice as many women using aged-care services than men and over 80 per cent of the aged-care workforce is women. The Albanese government will make a submission to the Fair Work Commission supporting a case for improved pay for aged-care workers. Aged-care reform will not just improve the quality and safety of care received by older Australians; it will create a better economic future for hundreds of thousands of women workers as well.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to ending violence against women and children. However, ending violence needs to start with prevention. I look forward to working with federal Labor, which have committed a \$77 million investment for appropriate consent and respectful relationships education. Nationally, we are in a housing crisis and only under a federal Labor government will we build 30,000 new social and affordable houses, which will provide important housing for domestic and family violence victims. Only an Albanese government will deliver for women and girls in Queensland.