




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Alcohol Fuelled Violence, Reforms

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.55 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to keeping Queenslanders safe. Queenslanders should be able to go out for a night with friends without the fear of being assaulted or feeling threatened. We know that it only takes a single senseless punch to claim a life. With late-night venues once again packed after the pandemic, we need to be reminded of this more than ever.

I especially acknowledge Kate and Billy Miller for taking the time to be here today. Their brother Cole's tragic death in 2016 on a night out in Fortitude Valley should never have happened. The Miller family have endured a nightmare, and no family should have to live through this. When Cole was killed, please know that the entire state grieved with you. That is why I am pleased that the Premier today has tabled our government's response to the independent evaluation of the Tackling Alcohol Fuelled Violence Policy.

This policy is all about finding the right balance between making nightclub precincts safer while at the same time limiting the financial and regulatory impact on venues. Our response outlines a commitment to implement further safety measures such as: a comprehensive independent review of alcohol and drug education in our schools; an alcohol awareness campaign; and work to ensure the list of banned patrons is available to all venues that trade after midnight. I am pleased to say that a number of recommendations have already been implemented, including allowing the use of pass-outs for patrons who have already had their ID scanned on entry as well as the reduction of days that mandatory ID scanning is required for venues closing before 1 am.

Our initiatives to keep Queenslanders safe are working. All of this work is in addition to the support that we give our safe night precincts, and today's announcement of \$500,000 in grant funding for our safe night precinct boards will enable them to continue to run crucial safety initiatives such as security patrols or taxi marshals to ensure patrons can get home safely after a night out.

I acknowledge the former attorney-general and now health minister, Yvette D'Ath, who lived and breathed negotiating these reforms with industry and the community. I also acknowledge the former member for Stafford, Dr Anthony Lynham, who entered politics for the sole purpose of strengthening our laws to tackle alcohol fuelled violence. He would have loved to be here today but, as he said to me, it is his operating day and he could not let his patients down. As a government we are continually looking for ways that we can keep Queenslanders safe, because violence has no place in Queensland.