



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 June 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Budget, Women and Girls**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.02 am): The budget handed down by the Treasurer this week continues to invest in initiatives that strengthen women's economic security, safety and their health and wellbeing. The Palaszczuk government is committed to building a Queensland where women and girls have equal access to the opportunities afforded by our great state, and the Queensland Women's Budget Statement demonstrates that commitment.

We know that women continue to face economic and social inequalities across a range of measures and that these issues have been exacerbated by the pandemic. On average, women earn \$277 less per week than men. It is crucial that we invest in programs that address this inequality, and that is exactly what our budget does. We are funding programs that help women build a foundation for success and independence through access to education, employment and women's health. The budget goes hand in hand with our commitment to a women's health strategy which will guide investment for the health and wellbeing of women and girls into the future.

The key investments include: our record \$23.6 billion investment in Queensland's health system; \$100 million for the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program to increase workforce participation and improve work opportunities for economically disadvantaged Queenslanders; \$890,000 for the Female Founders program to continue to deliver a suite of support and capability programs to help Queensland women start and grow their own business; \$35 million for the Back to Work program to continue to support women, young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with disabilities and the long-term unemployed back into jobs.

The budget also includes a significant investment to tackle violence against women and ensure women's safety. We are investing \$363 million to respond to the first report of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. We will continue our reforms to ensure victims are kept safe and perpetrators are held to account. We will also increase our capacity to understand, identify and respond to coercive control and criminalise this all too prevalent form of abuse.

The CEO of Micah Projects, Karyn Walsh, celebrated the budget statement recognising the diversity of women's lived experience, saying—

The Share the Dignity Vending Machines and investment to expand support for perinatal and infant mental health are important investments.

Rebecca Andrews, the head of Queensland Ai Group, welcomed the Women's Budget Statement and said—

The pandemic delivered us many challenges including many that had a negative impact on the health and economic security of women.

Having a budget statement that outlines specific commitments for women sends a strong message that these challenges are important and that if we work together we can change things.

Sheree Taylor from the National Association of Women in Construction also commended the Women's Budget Statement, saying—

Dedicated evidence is required to address gender inequality.

Only the Palaszczuk government is delivering for women and girls in Queensland with our Women's Budget Statement.