




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Thompson, Ms E; 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) (10.03 am): Can I start by extending my thoughts and deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Emily Thompson. The 18-year-old woman has been described as smart, kind and loving but she tragically had her life cut short, allegedly at the hands of her ex-boyfriend. As I have stated many times in this House, our government remains absolutely committed to eliminating all forms of violence against women.

Women across Australia have raised their voices. They have been calling for change. They have been calling for gender equality and an end to the gender pay gap. They have been calling for economic security, affordable child care and secure housing. Because of these women, we have a national conversation focused on women's safety and their economic security. After so many years of these calls going unanswered, I am so pleased to see women back at the centre of the federal budget. The chief executive of the Business Council of Australia, Jennifer Westacott, backed these reforms, saying—

... advancing women is not about the budget, it's about changing social norms. It's about how we think about women in society, how we respect women, how we think about them in work, how we think about family structures,

The plan for cheaper child care, coupled with modernising paid parental leave, will promote a more equal distribution of paid and unpaid work within households. This will directly reduce barriers to women engaging in the workforce and strengthen their economic independence.

Parenthood executive director, Georgie Dent, has rightly observed that these reforms are now on the agenda 'because of decades of campaigning largely led by women'. She said, 'This budget reflects a government willing to listen to their voices.'

Further barriers will be reduced by fee-free TAFE and community-based vocational education places targeting priority groups, including women and those studying in non-traditional fields. It strengthens housing affordability and stability for women, especially those experiencing violence, older women and women from rural and regional areas.

This budget also delivers on women's health, safety and wellbeing, particularly for First Nations women. This budget will complement the significant body of reform that Queensland is undertaking to end domestic, family and sexual violence. These initiatives will be shaped by the voices of victim survivors and recognise and address the disproportionate frequency and severity of violence against First Nations women.

It supports the hardworking and already stretched frontline services who deliver support to victim survivors every day. It builds on investment in programs to support perpetrators of domestic and family violence to change their behaviour. This includes trialling innovative ways to hold perpetrators to

account. We know how overwhelmed these services have been and this budget shows a clear commitment to supporting frontline services and victim survivors. The voices of Australian women are being heard. This budget will deliver a pathway towards gender equality.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. On a matter of clarification, the Attorney referred to a matter that I believe is in breach of the sub judice rule of the standing orders, which is section 233(2). That section requires that no matter be mentioned that is currently before a court, particularly in a criminal matter, after a charge has been laid.

Mr SPEAKER: I will take that under consideration. However, the matter was mentioned and left at the mention. I will review that. Thank you, member for Clayfield.