




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 9 November 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Domestic and Family Violence, High-Risk Teams

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.59 am): The eight high-risk teams currently in operation across Queensland are saving lives. High-risk teams coordinate and focus the efforts of relevant agencies to keep victims of domestic and family violence safe and hold perpetrators to account. Members include specialist domestic and family violence services, Police, Health, Corrections, Housing, courts, Child Safety and Youth Justice. Beginning with three trial sites back in 2017 at Logan-Beenleigh, Cherbourg and Mount Isa, a staged implementation over two years saw high-risk teams expand to eight sites with the addition of Ipswich, Brisbane, Cairns, Mackay and Caboolture.

Today I am very pleased to advise the House that additional funding of almost \$1 million annually has been provided to enhance the operation of these high-risk teams. We know that these teams are effective because of an independent evaluation by Griffith University of Queensland's integrated service response and the high-risk team model in 2019. It found that high-risk teams are improving victim safety, enabling faster and more targeted responses for victims and perpetrators, and ensuring there is a greater place-based focus to identifying and responding to domestic and family violence. High-risk teams promote better, more integrated practice and better information sharing, with an unrelenting focus on the safety of some very high risk victims subjected to violence and control by dangerous perpetrators.

Recognising the benefits of these high-risk teams, the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report *Hear her voice* called for the expansion of high-risk teams and integrated service responses in additional locations. We have announced Townsville as the first of these three new locations, and other sites will be announced soon. I thank each and every person from government agencies and service partners who are working together to focus efforts on keeping women safe and monitoring high-risk offenders. We have to intervene earlier to notice the red flags before more police tape surrounds another family home.