




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, Report

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.10 am): We are currently in the middle of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, so today I am proud to formally table the Queensland government's response to the landmark report of the independent Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, *Hear her voice—report two: women and girls' experiences across the criminal justice system*.

Tabled paper: Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report titled 'Hear her voice—Report 2: Women and girls' experiences across the criminal justice system', government response [2028](#).

In developing its second report, the task force received hundreds of submissions from victim-survivors of sexual assault. I want to again thank each and every one of them for their contribution to this vital reform. Report No. 2 makes 188 recommendations for government to do better by putting victims at the centre of responses and by strengthening our criminal justice system. Last week the government released its response to report No. 2, including a significant investment of \$225 million over five years to implement responses and build a long-term plan to improve women's and girls' experience of the criminal justice system.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry, Minister. Members from both sides will cease their quarrelling across the chamber or I will start warning members. If you want to have a conversation then take it outside.

Ms FENTIMAN: This brings our government's total investment to eliminate domestic, family and sexual violence to over \$1.3 billion since 2015. Key initiatives of the response include establishing a victims' commissioner; court IT upgrades in 81 locations to make it easier for victims to give video evidence; piloting a victims' advocate service in key locations and developing the most appropriate model for a statewide victim advocate service; a community education campaign to improve awareness and understanding about sexual violence, including consent; additional resources for the DPP to support victims through the system; and enhancing our sexual assault response teams and implementing an integrated model in two new locations. We will also progress legislative amendments as a priority to move to an affirmative model of consent to better reflect community expectations.

I am also very proud that we will progress amendments to recognise stealthing as rape and reform the laws of evidence and procedure as they apply to sexual offences. Stealthing, the removal of a condom without consent, is not only a breach of trust but also fundamentally violates the consent given for a sexual act. It is rape and it should be recognised as such.

These reforms have been championed by advocates such as Chanel Contos, who started the Teach Us Consent movement to push for better consent education in schools and break down the cultural attitudes that underpin sexual violence. Tens of thousands of people have signed Chanel's petition and, in 2021, she was awarded the Young People's Human Rights Medal at the Australian

Human Rights Awards. I am so pleased that today Chanel joins us in the Queensland parliament to support our reforms. I thank her for her tireless advocacy. Because of people such as Chanel, Australia is becoming a safer and more respectful place for women and girls.