




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Women's Week

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.04 am): Enabling women and girls to achieve independence and equality is why the Queensland government established Queensland Women's Week. Not satisfied with just one day, we took the opportunity to expand International Women's Day celebrations to a week-long, statewide series of events to celebrate and recognise the achievements and successes of women and girls across Queensland. This year's theme for Queensland Women's Week was 'Empower her voice; secure her future'. It acknowledges the fundamental rights of every woman to be safe in all areas of society—at home, at school and in the workplace.

Last year we made some important milestones: we signed a statement of support for the Wiyi Yani U Thangani report, recognising the rights, needs and aspirations of First Nations women; we hosted the inaugural women's investment summit to advance the economic participation of women through entrepreneurship and investment; and we provided free sanitary products to students in Queensland state and non-state schools via the installation of Dignity Vending Machines.

Last week we also released the gender equality report card for 2022. The report card shows that incremental change is occurring. It was positive to see that women's workforce participation is up and that the gender pay gap has narrowed slightly. However, the report card shows there is still much more to do. Only 27 per cent of women feel safe walking home alone in their area at night, compared to 60 per cent of men; women remain three times more likely to be killed by a partner; and almost nine in 10 victims of sexual assault are women. The numbers are unacceptable.

That is why we are continuing our comprehensive reform program to strengthen our response to violence against women, guided by the recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Linda Apelt, who has overseen the government's implementation of the task force's recommendations as the Independent Implementation Supervisor over recent months.

I am extremely pleased to announce that Cathy Taylor has now been permanently appointed to the role of Independent Implementation Supervisor. Ms Taylor has over 20 years experience as a senior public servant in Queensland and South Australia, working across different areas and with all sides of politics. She has a proven track record of leading significant reform and driving change across government agencies and led Queensland's response to the 2015 *Not now, not ever* report. Following a nationwide recruitment process to identify candidates with relevant expertise, an independent selection panel, which included the Hon. Margaret McMurdo AC, recommended that Ms Taylor be appointed. She will commence in the role in the coming weeks. Ms Apelt will continue as the interim supervisor until then. I have no doubt that Ms Taylor will be well suited to this position, and I look forward to working with her as she oversees these crucial reforms to keep women and children safe.