




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 13 September 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.03 am): The murder of Hannah Clarke and her three children—Aaliyah, Laianah and Trey—is a tragic reminder of the insidious nature of domestic, family and sexual violence. Friday, 8 September would have been Hannah's 35th birthday. Recently I met with Sue and Lloyd Clarke who I am sure everyone in this chamber would agree are tremendous advocates determined to end domestic and family violence. Last week Sue passed on these words to me to read here in parliament—

Hannah would be 35 today. She was a beautiful, vivacious girl, my best friend. She was going to join the police force to help women like her, she told me. Hopefully coercive control and the red flags are better understood now. My hope is Hannah and my beautiful grandchildren will never be forgotten.

We will never forget Hannah, Aaliyah, Laianah and Trey. Increasing community awareness and legislating against coercive control will be Hannah and her children's legacy. Our efforts as well as those of Hannah's family through the Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation are crucial to raising community awareness. I thank Sue and Lloyd Clarke for their tireless efforts towards ending coercive control.

The Palaszczuk government is resolved to doing everything we can to end violence against women and their children. We have already taken foundational steps to legislate against coercive control. On 1 August 2023 the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023 commenced. This act amends and strengthens Queensland's existing laws to better respond to coercive control and strengthen the offence of unlawful stalking, paving the way towards a new standalone coercive control offence. Before the end of this year I intend to introduce legislation into parliament to establish the criminal offence of coercive control. I want to thank all of the stakeholders who are working with my department to get this law right. This is not just about delivering on a recommendation; it is about achieving real change and protection for victim-survivors.

The Palaszczuk government is also leading a program of work with the service providers and stakeholders so that together we can end domestic, family and sexual violence in Queensland. Work is underway to develop a communication strategy to guide trauma and culturally inform communication activities to increase community awareness and understanding of coercive control and domestic and family violence. We are in the process of implementing judicial training and police training as a precursor to our coercive control legislation. Our government is consulting with stakeholders to develop Australia's first perpetrator strategy and working to establish a peak advocacy body. In this year's budget we provided an additional \$58.3 million over four years and \$20.7 million per annum from this year's budget to ensure domestic, family and sexual violence services continue their vital work with victim-survivors. The Palaszczuk government's investment in systems, communities and first responders will increase our ability to understand, identify and respond to coercive control and hold perpetrators to account. Today we remember Hannah and her family.