




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR COOPER

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Women's Week

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (2.03 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, I do not know about you but I have really enjoyed Queensland Women's Week. What a wonderful celebration of Queensland women and girls—a reminder of how far we have come and the work that is still ahead of us. As the minister said last night in her speech, the experiences and outcomes for a girl born today are so radically different to those of us born two, three, four or more decades ago.

Governments right around the world, including the Miles government, have turned our attention deliberately towards the issue of holding women up, not just because it is the right thing to do for women and girls but because it is the right thing to do for everyone. According to studies by rights group Plan International, every dollar spent on girls' rights and education would generate a \$2.80 return—equivalent to billions of dollars in additional GDP.

A girl born today in Queensland will have access to quality and free health care from the moment she arrives in the world, meaning any health complications that impact her in the future are caught and treated early. If her parents are struggling, they can access free parenting support such as the PPP program, giving her and her family the best start in life. We know that a good education sets the foundation for financial independence for girls. A girl born today can attend kindy for free, putting her on the right course for a great schooling career courtesy of a public education system that provides for world-class schooling no matter where you live in Queensland.

If she needs help to stay at school, she can get it. We are investing in things such as flexi spaces and flexi schools; GPs in schools, making it easier to get help; and even reaching out to programs like Headspace, Beyond Blue or the Kids Helpline—all programs that the Miles government helps to fund so that girls can finish and graduate from school. When they do, they have the options that many women today did not. They can pursue careers in nursing, teaching, business and hospitality but also through our free TAFE program they can gain a trade qualification or embark on a career in STEM because we are working with all of our industry partners to embed gender equity programs, ensuring that a career pathway for women and girls exists no matter what their calling is.

It is often said you cannot be what you cannot see. We heard last night from the minister that so many of Queensland's senior public servants and statutory appointments are women, including of course Queensland's Governor, Chief Scientist and Chief Entrepreneur. Today Minister de Brenni announced that we are signing up to the international Equal by 30 campaign to work towards equal pay, equal leadership and equal opportunities for women in the clean energy sector by 2030. With almost half of the Miles government being women and over 50 per cent of the cabinet being women, our government is leading by example. To all of Queensland's women and girls, a happy Queensland Women's Week.