



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 March 2024

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Women**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (10.10 am): We know that a stable job and economic security is key for successful, safe and prosperous lives for women. That is why the theme of this year's Queensland Women's Week is so important—we must 'count her in'.

The Miles government recognises that women's economic empowerment is fundamental to realising women's rights and achieving gender equality. We value women and we invest in women. Each and every day, we show a commitment to women's equality. We have valued women by legislating the promotion of gender pay equity in workplace bargaining. We have amended the paid parental leave directive to provide gender equitable access to paid parental leave. We have created laws that allow portable long service leave for workers in the community services industry, the majority of whom are women. We have invested in women—\$16.3 million to remove barriers that stand in the way of equality, inclusion and economic participation of women and girls.

Since 2015 some 28,000 women have had a successful training or employment outcome through Skilling Queenslanders for Work. We have supported more than 1,500 women in business with accelerator programs, mentoring, business coaching and scholarships. Through our Back to Work program, more than 9,900 women have been employed across Queensland.

I am so proud to be part of a government that is closing the economic gaps between men and women. The gender pay, workforce participation and superannuation gaps all getting smaller, and there are many more women in the STEM and construction industries. Despite these gains, women are significantly more likely to be subjected to violence including sexual assault and elder abuse. They still do much more of the unpaid work and they continue to earn less and retire with less. Worryingly, more than 30 per cent of women rely on their partner's income in retirement compared with six per cent of men.

We must continue to make sure that we 'count her in' so that we can create real and meaningful change for women and girls not just in Queensland but across the country. I am honoured to be Queensland's Minister for Women. Our government, the Miles government, will always strive to make sure that women and girls across Queensland receive the help, support, encouragement and, most of all, respect that they absolutely deserve.