




Speech By
Hon. Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Women and Girls

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (10.07 am): This week is Women’s Week, when Queenslanders come together to recognise the hard work and dedication of the women in our lives and our communities. It is recognition that women deserve this week and every week. Here in Queensland, we have over 2.6 million women and girls—that is 2.6 million mothers, grandmothers, wives, daughters, sisters, aunts, nieces and friends who have big dreams and who deserve a government that works hard to make those dreams a reality.

When I look around my cabinet and caucus, there are so many women who are leading by example—breaking down barriers and opening doors for the next generation of female leaders. I am proud of the progress this government has made empowering women, especially in health care. We decriminalised abortion. We are improving access to birth control and UTI treatments. We fund programs for young mothers and support for domestic, family and sexual violence. And it was our government that introduced the first ever paid domestic violence leave. This is why I am so proud of our new Women and Girls’ Health Strategy—because I want Queensland’s women and girls to get the best possible health care, to know their voices are heard—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left!

Mr MILES: This is why I am so proud of our new Women and Girls’ Health Strategy—because I want Queensland’s women and girls to get the best possible health care and to know that their voices are heard when they are in pain and that they are supported through life’s great milestones. This strategy is a \$1 billion plan to deliver better health care in our communities, tailored to the needs of women and girls, investing in 34 initiatives that deliver—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, you have been snipping all morning. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr MILES:—the services women need, to fill the gaps women have told us exist in communities. Some \$250 million of this investment is new funding towards new initiatives, like: the new Women’s Health Hub; new nurse-led clinics; new health and wellbeing programs, especially in schools; new publicly funded IVF for couples who have experienced infertility due to cancer or other complex health conditions; and new, improved access to care for pelvic pain like endometriosis. This strategy is the direct result of feedback from 12,000 women and girls right across the state—women who have told us their pain was dismissed or minimised and they were not being believed. To those women, your voices

have been heard and your experiences have shaped the solutions of the future. Our priority is to make women's health care accessible and affordable, bringing it closer to home so that women can access specialist services sooner, because when women are healthy, they can participate fully at work, in the community and at home.

The Women and Girls' Health Strategy is another demonstration of my government's commitment to achieving gender equity. This Friday, people around the world will celebrate International Women's Day. The theme this year is 'Count Her In'. It is a focus on providing pathways to greater economic inclusion for women and girls to learn, earn and lead. The question for every member this week is: how are you supporting the women around you? What are you doing to back the women in your life at home, in the office and in your communities?