



Speech By  
**Hon. Steven Miles**


**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Women and Girls**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.37 am): On this side of the House we care about women and the safety of women. That is why during Queensland Women's Week we have made some monumental announcements for the women and girls of this great state. We released the \$1 billion Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy to improve the healthcare experiences of the women and girls who live in Queensland. We announced that more than \$46 million will be invested in free walk-in nursing clinics that will offer women and girls more choice about their health care and easier access to care where they can feel safe, heard and supported. For the first time, we will publicly fund IVF services for people experiencing complex medical conditions. Yesterday another historic moment happened right here in this chamber—we passed legislation that will protect victims of domestic and family violence.

Under our government, coercive control will be a criminal offence. Coercive control can be subtle but it is insidious and it is abuse. What we know is that coercive control is the most common factor that leads to domestic violence murders. These laws will save lives—lives like Hannah Clarke and her three beautiful children; lives like Allison Baden-Clay. I want to thank all the brave victims, survivors and advocates who worked so hard to see this change happen. We have made strides to help people identify and report coercive control and we know that by criminalising this offence we can help more women and families to protect themselves.

Yesterday also saw affirmative consent written into law as well as the recognition of stealthing as rape. I want my children to grow up in a state where consent must be affirmative and now I know that they will. These are important changes. It was really special to join with advocates in celebrating these big wins yesterday and again last night at our International Women's Day reception here at parliament. Hundreds of people came together to give women the recognition they deserve this week and every week.

We have more to do to make the lives of Queensland women safer and more equal. I pledge to continue down that path. I do want to celebrate and acknowledge the long way we have come. The Women's Week theme here in Queensland is 'Count her in'. In Queensland we will count her in for education, count her in to the economy, count her in to the workforce and count her in to leadership roles. My government will make sure Queensland continues to be a place where we count her in today, tomorrow and every day.