



Speech By  
**Hon. Steven Miles**


**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (11.54 am): Today is the start of Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month. It is a time to raise awareness and send a message that violence of any kind towards a domestic partner, women or children is not tolerated—not now, not ever. Domestic violence is a scourge on society and it is everyone’s responsibility to turn things around. Already this year, five Queensland women have died in an act of gender-based violence. That is five too many. We need to educate and empower women, their friends, families and colleagues to notice the red flags and to have the courage to report bad behaviour before it escalates. That is why we are improving reporting and accessibility of support services. And we need to educate boys and men to respect women.

Earlier this week, we announced a 20 per cent increase to domestic, family and sexual violence support service funding. This represents a \$36 million boost in funding for the next financial year, in recognition of increased demand, taking our government’s commitment to domestic, family and sexual violence services to nearly \$214 million between 2024 and 2025. This builds on our \$1.75 billion investment in the sector, which has supported reforms recommended by the Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce reports.

Since I became Premier, we have also passed laws to make coercive control a standalone criminal offence. Criminalising this insidious behaviour will be the legacy of Hannah Clarke and her children, who lost their lives in 2020. Whilst this investment and our targeted reforms are largely about saving lives, it is also about protecting young Queenslanders from further harm. As I said yesterday, 54 per cent of young offenders have experienced domestic and family violence in their lives. Instead of turning to a life of crime, we want young people to get the care they need to recover and rebuild.

This morning, I met with the Prime Minister, premiers and chief ministers at the National Cabinet meeting centred on domestic, family and sexual violence prevention. We also heard from the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner, Micaela Cronin. It is clear this issue has been and continues to be of national significance and requires a national focus. Today, National Cabinet has agreed to rapidly undertake a review of best-practice domestic and family violence responses in each state and explore opportunities for national consistency. The Albanese government will implement an expansion of the \$5,000 leaving violence payment for those escaping violent relationships to help get them to safety and to recover. They will also deliver new measures to tackle violence against women, including violent pornography and misogynistic content targeting young people. That will include new legislation to ban deepfake pornography and extra funding for the eSafety Commission to pilot age-assurance technologies.

The premiers and chief ministers have also agreed to develop options to improve police responses to high-risk and serial perpetrators and information sharing across jurisdictions. My government will continue to implement the recommendations of the Women’s Safety and Justice

Taskforce and monitor the reviews planned in New South Wales following the awful murder of Molly Ticehurst. My thoughts are with Molly's family and friends and with every family who has lost a family member to gender-based violence.

Tonight, we will take a moment of silence in honour of those women, children and men who have been lost to domestic and family violence and, this month, we will focus on the education, prevention and early intervention tools that can save lives. Any evidence-based improvements that could be applied in Queensland will be considered. That is my personal commitment to Queenslanders because we can and must do better. Together, we are stronger. Together, we can put a stop to the violence.