



Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of
Domestic and Family Violence

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Our ref: 595721/1; 5432119

Your ref: A600539

8 DEC 2020

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr of George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition 3351-20 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 8 September 2020 regarding *Gender representation in public spaces*.

The Palaszczuk Government's vision for women and girls is that the Queensland community respects women, embraces gender equality and promotes and protects the rights, interests and wellbeing of women and girls. This is reflected in the *Queensland Women's Strategy 2016-21*, launched in 2016.

The strategy provides a framework for government, the private sector and the wider Queensland community to take action to achieve gender equality in Queensland under four priorities: participation and leadership; economic security; safety; and health and wellbeing.

Recent key achievements by the Palaszczuk Government include:

- increased representation of women on Government Bodies from 31 per cent in 2015 to 54 per cent in 2020, thereby delivering on the Towards Gender Parity: Women on Boards Initiative of achieving 50 per cent gender equity targets by 2020;
- delivery of all 140 recommendations made in the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence report, *Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland*; and
- successfully delivering Queensland Women's Week in 2018, 2019 and 2020, with the provision of over \$470,000 provided in grants to facilitate more than 170 local events, activities and initiatives.

The petition requests that a law be created that requires 50% of statues, pictures and plaques in public places in Queensland to depict real women.

The Palaszczuk Government's policy in this space is the *Queensland Government Framework for Considering Proposals to Establish Memorials and Monuments of Significance* (Framework) and is a whole-of-government framework for assessing and actioning proposals

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to establish memorials or monuments of significance. The Framework provides guidance about the process for considering a proposal for certain types of memorials and monuments.

While I recognise more needs to be done, I am confident that together with the whole Queensland community, can continue to make a positive difference to the lives of women and girls in Queensland.

As you would be aware, the Premier is very committed to promoting and protecting the rights and wellbeing of women and girls by implementing meaningful policies that affect positive change. This is evidenced by the number of women who sit in the Premier's cabinet, the number of female Labor Members in our Parliament and the Premier's commitment to increasing the number of women on boards in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors.

Given that it may be timely to review the operation of the Framework to ensure that it remains in step with the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to gender equality, I will consider writing to the Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier and Minister for Trade, to propose that the Framework be reviewed.

I am proud of the Palaszczuk Government's achievements as we continue to work with the community towards achieving gender equality in Queensland. We know gender equality leads to better social and economic outcomes for all, but it can only be achieved when women and men across all parts of the community work together. I trust the information provided is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Fentiman', written in a cursive style.

Shannon Fentiman MP

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

Member for Waterford