




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 29 October 2015

MOTION

Member for Cook, Order for Production of Documents

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.01 pm): I move—

That, in accordance with standing order 27, this House orders the Premier to produce to this House by 12 November 2015 all inward and outward email correspondence between the Premier's staff or ministers or ministerial staff and the member for Cook or his office, since 30 March, that provides assistance with speeches, media, event attendance or advance notice of government announcements.

In speaking to the motion this evening, I have to say that the eight months that the member for Cook has spent in this parliament has been nothing but a sordid affair. We have seen controversy after controversy surrounding the member for Cook. The motion we are debating tonight involves the level of support that he receives from the Labor government, of which he used to be a member. He quit in extraordinary circumstances or was fired in extraordinary circumstances from the Labor Party or was expelled from the Labor Party. What has been revealed in the last few weeks is the high level of assistance he continues to receive.

I will go over the reasons why I have huge concerns with respect to the level of support the Labor Party have continued to give Mr Gordon since his election. There are the allegations that have been made against the member since he has been a member of this parliament. He announced a criminal history prior to the election, which has since been disclosed. That forced him out of the Labor Party. He had child support debts. Members opposite come in here every day—and they did it today—and talk about women and domestic violence and they continue to pat on the back a member who sits up the back who only a few months ago had outstanding child support debts. So much of a father is he that he had all these debts to his children outstanding, but he is still a good bloke; he gets the pats on the back from those opposite. There were allegations of domestic violence made by a former partner, which I will not talk about because there are still some under investigation. More recently, there were allegations of him sending explicit text messages not to one woman, not to two women, but to three women.

This member has a pattern of behaviour that is not deserving of a person who serves in this place. If the public were to see the member for Cook and have a look at his rap sheet, they would ask the question: how does a member like that, firstly, get elected but then continue to serve in this place? How does a member like that, who does not pay child support to his children and yet confesses that he is a great father, which he has said in this place—and I see the member for Mirani shaking his head—

Mr Pearce: You're a disgrace.

Mr BLEIJIE: I say to the member for Mirani that that was not an accusation; that was a fact, and that is why the Labor Party kicked him out. At the time in relation to the member for Cook the Premier said—

I have always maintained integrity is fundamental to any government that I lead. Today I am prepared to put my premiership on the line. This is a very serious issue. Just half an hour ago I spoke to the member for Cook. I told him very clearly that today I would be writing to the state secretary to expel him from the Australian Labor Party.

She also said—

I have made it very clear he does not meet my standards and ... does not meet Queensland's standards.

I'm putting my premiership on the line.

So we have a member sitting at the back who continues to come into this House with all these allegations, sexual allegations against him, the sending of explicit text messages to three women, domestic violence allegations made against him, not paying child support—and I can assure honourable members that he is someone who is not going to win a father of the year award—and still has the Labor Party's support.

If the Premier were serious about putting her premiership on the line, why last night did we have a situation where, after they sold out rural Queensland, including the member for Cook, he went over there like he was back in the fold, getting pats on the back from ministers? 'Well done, mate. Welcome back to the pack.' Yet we have to continually remind Queenslanders and this parliament that the Premier said that not disclosing one's criminal history and not paying child support were enough to be expelled from the Labor Party. She went further and said he should resign from parliament. Then we have had all these other accusations and allegations since then: the explicit text messages and the domestic violence allegations. The Premier said he should resign from parliament over child support, but everything else that has happened since then is not a worry; they still take his vote and they continue to support him.

I put to you, Mr Speaker, that the behaviour and the history of the member for Cook is unbecoming of a member of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland. He should not be in this place; transparency should prevail. That is why the information that the motion calls for should be provided.