




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 9 November 2016

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Lee, Master M

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.45 pm): I rise today to speak on behalf of Queenslanders and their ongoing concerns at the lack of action and perceived silence and secrecy around Child Safety's handling of the death of Mason Jet Lee. At today's silent protest a letter to the Premier was handed to me by Act for Mason, a group of mothers looking for answers. I will now read from the letter, which I will also table. The letter states—

To Annastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier of Queensland,

We, concerned citizens of Brisbane, call on the Queensland Government to explain how the system failed Mason Jett Lee.

Many Queenslanders' trust in the Child Safety System has been completely shattered and dissolved because of the severity of Mason's story. Many of us have been thrown into a reality that has left in its wake feelings of great anxiety. We need answers and updates from our current Child Safety Minister, Shannon Fentiman. But the delay in actions taken, lack of empathy, urgency, communication and accountability shown to counteract this wrong, has left the public feeling completely disheartened and frustrated. Where is the leadership needed to right this wrong!

More than 30,000 concerned Queenslanders have put their names to an online petition calling for policy changes to provide more stringent intervention procedures for children at risk in the state's child safety system, in the wake of the death of little Mason Lee.

So here we are today, demonstrating to the Queensland government that Mason Jett Lee will continue to have a public voice. We call for bi-partisan support within Queensland government to legislate **Mason Jett Lee's Law**, which proposes that: **No child who is referred by a doctor, as having sustained injuries intentionally inflicted or sexual in nature will be sent home until a full investigation is completed. These children will be treated in the same manner as a 000 phone call: A LIFE AT RISK, and will be treated as a priority emergency.**

Giving doctors and medical staff authority to only report abuse cases to the Child Safety Department when it is already so heavily under resourced, is just **NOT** good enough. Using words like 'reviews' and 'investigations' only increases the public's anxiety, patronizes our intelligence and creates further frustration.

Having MASON JETT LEE'S LAW in place, will enforce that the department of Child Safety keep up with the demands enforced by medical professionals. The hospitals will be a 'stop gate' for abused children until 'Child Safety' fulfill their requirements to conduct a full investigation.

With close to 1,100 suspected child abuse cases being closed with no actions taken, the importance of enforcing this law is undeniable.

It is important that the calls by thousands of Queenslanders are not ignored. Please ease the public's anxiety and renew our confidence in the system by putting in place 'Mason Jett Lee's Law'.

Kind regards,

Katherine Christensen
Brisbane Co-Coordinator
Act for Mason

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 9 November 2016, from the Brisbane Co-Coordinator of CT for Mason, Ms Katherine Christensen, to the Premier and Minister for the Arts, Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk, regarding Mason Jet Lee and the child protection system [\[2026\]](#).

We should never let the death of Mason Jet Lee be forgotten, and we must ensure that we do whatever we can to prevent it from ever happening again.