




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2016

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Newman LNP Government, Performance

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.21 am): This week we have seen the LNP carry on and try to score cheap political points with their talk of bullying, but let us have a look at their own actions when they were in government. I have been the Minister for Communities for a little over a year, and in that time I have travelled up and down Queensland meeting with hundreds of community groups—neighbourhood centres, women's refuges, youth centres. I have to say that, even now, a year on from the LNP government, the feedback I get is that these groups have an overwhelming sense of relief—relief that they can now advocate on behalf of their members, relief that they can speak out about the vulnerable Queenslanders they work with.

For three years, these groups were silenced, intimidated and bullied because gag clauses were put in their funding agreements. What a shameful and cruel move to put gag clauses in funding agreements for these hardworking community organisations that work with the most vulnerable Queenslanders. It is not just gag clauses; 362 community organisations had their funding reduced under the LNP. What does that look like on the ground? It affected programs like the Breaking the Cycle program in Rockhampton that worked with women and children experiencing violence. Organisations like Sisters Inside, the Queensland AIDS Council and the Working Women's Service all had their funding cut.

Ms Davis interjected.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: These organisations were cut each and every day, with some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders affected. Their own election review—

Mr Springborg interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: I take the interjection. In their own election review, the Borbidge-Sheldon review, it was found that they had alienated almost every section of the community.

Mr Springborg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition, it is not an opportunity to debate. You will have an opportunity to put questions later to the minister if you choose.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: Their own election review said they were without support from almost every community group in the lead-up to the election. What about their arrogance? They went after the doctors. How did that work out, Leader of the Opposition? They went after the lawyers, the judges and

their own public servants. I do not know whether the LNP government were afraid of criticism and had something to hide or whether they simply did not care about the hardworking community organisations that work with some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders. We had gag clauses and funding cuts, and they alienated almost every community group, every section of the community.

Ms Davis interjected.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: They used bullying tactics to silence those who wanted to criticise them. It was shameful and cruel, particularly when they put gag clauses in funding agreements for these organisations. The sheer hypocrisy we have seen from those opposite this week is absolutely breathtaking.