




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.22 am): Four ministers have been sacked, resigned or stood aside from this Labor frontbench, yet still we see failure after failure from the ministers in this government, who clearly cannot get the basics right to protect vulnerable Queenslanders. The No. 1 job of the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, Mark Ryan, is to keep Queenslanders safe and stand up for victims of crime and their families. Since late last year he has been on training wheels, but the wheels are quickly coming off and Queensland families are paying the price.

Today we see media reports of more domestic violence parole failures on the Gold Coast. In March this year, tougher laws were introduced by the LNP and passed by this parliament. All Labor had to do was implement those laws, but they cannot even get that right. Today the minister should put himself in the shoes of the Gold Coast domestic violence victim. How would he or anyone feel if they learnt, via social media, that their abusive ex-partner was released early from jail, despite a proper system now in place? That system was designed to protect that vulnerable victim, but the minister has let her down. It is simply not good enough.

However, there is one thing worse than that incompetence and it is the deceit that we saw on the day the minister used Gary and Leanne Pullen as political pawns for a press conference. Those were the words used by the family themselves. It was deceit against an innocent family who just wanted to say goodbye to their son Tim and give him the proper dignity of a funeral.

This minister is treating victims like third-class citizens. It is further proof that Labor puts the rights of criminals ahead of the welfare of victims. Instead of taking responsibility for his failings, he continually blames someone else. Instead of trying to help the family, Labor decided to target the whistleblower who lifted the lid on that shameful exploitation of a grieving family.

The minister narrowly survived a no-confidence motion in this place by the casting vote of the Speaker. No-one from his own Left faction would stand up to defend him. Sometimes, it is hard to defend the indefensible. It is time the minister did the right thing by victims of crime and their families and resigned his commission. Queenslanders deserve better than this.