




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (12.28 pm): As we enter 2017, we continue to see victims of domestic and family violence failing to receive the support or services they need under this Labor government and this minister. For two years, this Labor government has failed to implement the roadmap laid out for it by the former LNP government. We know that when this government took office the LNP had already put in the hard yards to address the scourge of domestic and family violence by commissioning the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence. Our landmark review, which culminated in the *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland* final report, laid out a roadmap for the government of this state to implement to protect victims and their families and to ensure a system is there to support them.

The Premier received this report on 28 February 2015—just a fortnight after being sworn into office two years ago—but what have we seen from this government and the minister responsible in the 24 months since? We have seen this crucial roadmap rolled out far too slowly. We have seen women attempting to leave domestic violence situations only to learn that the services are often not there to support them when they do. We have seen 9,000 women and 13,000 children thrown into dangerous motels because a lack of crisis accommodation means that they have nowhere else to go. We have seen more than 22,000 domestic violence protection orders flooding the courts each year. Despite this figure, the Labor government is failing victims of domestic violence by allowing the trial Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Court to descend into a quagmire of delays. Victims are being left to wait up to 7½ months for a domestic violence application hearing date. Yet, despite assurances from the Attorney-General that we would see a review into the Gold Coast Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Court last year, it is now February and a review is nowhere to be seen.

It is no surprise that we have an Attorney-General and a Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence more interested in ducking for cover than doing their job and protecting victims. At the same time we have seen more domestic violence related murders which have shocked Queenslanders to the core. In all, despite the way forward being written there in black and white, only 46 of the 140 recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report have actually been implemented. At this rate we will be waiting years for this roadmap to be fully laid out, but victims simply cannot afford to wait any longer, particularly when you consider that the second action plan for 2016 to 2019 has no mention of GPS trackers, which the government has made no commitment to roll out. It just talks about more reviews and research and not a lot of action.

The so-called Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence prevention claims her door is always open when it comes to looking at ways we can keep women and children safe. She clearly is not getting out beyond that open door and listening to front-line DV services, to police and to other groups that are all saying that the system is not working and that we need action now. We must act now—no more dithering.

Like the Leader of the Opposition, my fellow members and the people of Queensland, I was sickened by what happened to Teresa Bradford on the Gold Coast just weeks ago. These events should never have been allowed to happen. Queenslanders want action. What have we seen from this Labor government? We have seen a Premier and an Attorney-General claiming that they are going to review bail laws again and may get around to doing something after that. When you consider nine women died last year and one woman has been killed in DV related killings, we can never forget them or those who came before them.

At this point I personally acknowledge Sonia Anderson, who is here today. Sonia's daughter Bianca Gervin was cruelly taken from her in 2010, and since then Sonia has been an absolute champion to prevent domestic and family violence. I am proud to know you, Sonia, and for you to be here in the gallery today. It is for people like Sonia that I will never give up the fight to stop domestic violence and no amount of stonewalling will get in my way.

I applaud the Leader of the Opposition for having the courage and showing the leadership to introduce a private member's bill. As a community we can never give up or give in to domestic violence and we must do everything in our power to keep victims safe. Where the government refuses to do their job to protect victims, the opposition will step up and do it for them. We must never forget those who have been taken from us: Teresa Bradford, Shelsea Schilling, Melinda Horner, Michelle Reynolds, Olivia Tung, Sandra Peniamina, Manjinder Ghuman, Karina Lock, Tania Simpson, Tara Brown, Bianca Gervin, Fabiana Palhares, Renee Carter, Anthea Mari and Sherelle Locke. Many of these women are from the Gold Coast. These are women who are gone but will never be forgotten.

(Time expired)