




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Department of Child Safety

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (10.16 am): How many more times must Queenslanders endure another Child Safety failure under this incompetent Labor minister? How many more times will child safety officers be thrown under the bus and the minister keep her job? Today we learn of yet another failure of Child Safety under this bumbling minister. In a total breach of trust and confidence we learn Child Safety has wrongly revealed secret information about a domestic violence victim and her children to the alleged perpetrator. Sadly, even the victims fear it is an overworked and struggling system that has failed her, a child safety system that has lurched from crisis to crisis under Annastacia Palaszczuk and her embattled minister. This was a minister who, only on Sunday, was crowing that Child Safety had embraced information sharing. Clearly this did not extend to the domestic violence unit in the police who would have said there was an active order in place.

As the minister also responsible for the prevention of domestic and family violence it is she who must accept responsibility for this complete system failure. It is unacceptable that a child safety officer should be thrown under the bus to once again save the minister from falling on her own sword. This is not the first time our hardworking child safety officers have been used as scapegoats for a failing system and an incompetent minister who has lost control of her government. Victims, children and child safety officers deserve better than this minister and this Labor government. Domestic violence victims need to have confidence in the system and children at risk need to know they will not be put at further risk of harm.

Today's revelations have further traumatised this family and caused untold hurt and harm to those children and their mother. My greatest concern now is how many other victims have been exposed in similar circumstances and put at risk. Given in this case we saw a rushed temporary order pushed through, it is clear the system failed. Even the victim in this case has said she is worried others are being put in harm's way by overworked staff. This is an unbelievable statement when one thinks of the constant claims by the minister of all the extra staff she has put on. Clearly this is not working.

As we reflect on Child Protection Week, we need to ensure the Premier holds her minister accountable for the litany of failures and makes sure our kids and victims are put ahead of covering up for the failures of her incompetent minister. Premier, sack this minister today.