




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2017

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Mobbs, Ms B; E-petition

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.44 pm): I recently tabled a paper petition and an e-petition on behalf of Bonnie Mobbs, who is a very brave mum fighting for reforms to our justice system. Late last year Bonnie lost her beloved daughter Shelsea. Shelsea Schilling was tragically taken from her family by her bikie former boyfriend. He menaced, stalked and eventually violently murdered her before killing himself in November last year. Now Bonnie has become part of the fight for domestic violence reforms, which is a role to which she never aspired. Bonnie was here in February when this parliament passed the LNP's tough new domestic violence laws which will help keep victims safe into the future.

In March it was reported that three people who watched on as Shelsea was murdered are not being charged. Those reports stated that Queensland, unlike other jurisdictions, does not have a legislative provision which compels people to rescue victims when they witness a violent crime being committed in front of them. As a result, several witnesses were allegedly in a position to help Shelsea, but they did nothing to assist and they have not been charged. This is a loophole which Bonnie wants to close. Bonnie wants this House to ensure that witnesses are obligated to report or attempt to prevent serious indictable offences such as serious assaults, murder or suicide.

The e-petition calls for changes to legislation to make it an offence for any person who is a witness to the commission of a serious indictable offence to fail to report the commission of the offence and/or fail to do anything within their power to stop the offence being committed or continuing. It is not just Bonnie calling for these changes: this year the Queensland Coroner recommended that Queensland adopt the Northern Territory's laws which deal with failing to help when someone is dying. In the Northern Territory it is an offence for any person to callously fail to provide rescue, resuscitation, medical treatment, first aid or succour of any kind to a person urgently in need of it and whose life may be in danger if it is not provided. In the view of the Queensland Coroner, a similar offence in Queensland may provide more incentive for people not to simply stand by when someone is dying.

This recommendation was contained in the findings of an inquest into the death of Karen Louise Richards in 2014. She died when her spouse and drug supplier failed to call triple 0 or provide CPR after she suffered a drug overdose. Despite these recommendations appearing in black and white, we have seen no action from this do-nothing Labor government. I was very pleased to support Bonnie and sponsor her petition as she continues to crusade for reforms to our domestic violence laws because, even after the pain of losing her beautiful daughter, Bonnie is continuing her fight to save others like Shelsea in the future.