




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2017

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Domestic and Family Violence, One Nation Policy

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (11.22 am): Domestic violence is not a gendered crime, but the sad and disturbing fact is that last year three out of four victims in Queensland were women. Coupled with this is the very real threat of domestic violence being present in around 50 per cent of child abuse cases. That is why I was outraged when I read yesterday the so-called policy from One Nation and the member for Buderim on domestic violence. As a survivor of domestic violence, I find the proposals being put forward by One Nation insulting, as would many other victims. It is clear the member for Buderim has little or no idea about the impact domestic violence has on thousands of women, men and children every year. The terrible reality is that domestic violence is predominantly committed by males against their female partners.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I am having difficulty hearing the member. This is a serious issue.

Ms BATES: Putting children in the middle of domestic violence hearings and dragging out hearings will only further harm victims and their children. This is not a policy that will do anything to address the scourge of domestic violence that has hit Queensland under this do-nothing Labor government. I said it publicly and I will repeat it: nothing from the One Nation policy will address the explosion in the number of offenders attempting to strangle their partners, with more than 1,040 recorded offences in 2016-17.

The fact is that the member for Buderim has been brainwashed by a few jilted men caught up in custody battles who have branded themselves the Australian Brotherhood of Fathers. Let me tell the House the sorts of things that ABF advocate—the same group the member for Buderim has taken his policy advice from. ABF encourage men to suicide publicly over family law issues. They encourage domestic violence abusers to continue harassing their victims by attempting to take out cross-DVOs on them. They harass women as they enter and leave family law courts across Australia, and they use fake statistics about male suicides to further their agenda while not doing anything to help men who are experiencing mental health crises.

They purport to be a charity and seek charitable donations despite being a privately owned business. They spread misleading claims that women have more rights in the family law system than men and that the only people with rights are children. Is it any wonder that the policy has been canned by key domestic violence advocates including the Women's Legal Service, Rise Up, the Red Heart Campaign, Bravehearts and the brave mothers of victims of domestic homicide. What we have seen is disgusting and disgraceful. It has been called out as a dangerous plan devised by a few angry men, and the member for Buderim should hang his head in shame. This so-called policy is another example—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Buderim, you are rising on a point of order?

Mr DICKSON: I am, Mr Speaker. Obviously the member has not read the bill—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members! Member for Buderim, it is not an opportunity for debate. What is your point of order?

Mr DICKSON: Mr Speaker, I ask that the member withdraw the statement she has made. I take offence.

Mr SPEAKER: Was there anything that personally reflected on you?

Mr DICKSON: Yes, Mr Speaker. I think the language used by the member is very unparliamentary. I think we should treat people with respect and dignity, and I thought that was below the member's standard.

Mr SPEAKER: I understand there was something within that contribution that personally reflected on the member for Buderim. Member for Mudgeeraba, will you withdraw?

Ms BATES: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, please. The member has withdrawn.

Ms BATES: This so-called policy is another example of why the LNP has already ruled out on countless occasions any deal with One Nation. There will be no deal, there will be no coalition and there will be no shared ministry. Put simply, a vote for One Nation is a vote for Labor.