




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Minister for Corrective Services

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (3.01 pm): For a government that has no qualms about shameless publicity stunts, in the last sitting of parliament we saw a new low even from this government. Today we should be celebrating in this parliament the passing of a good law, the no-body no-parole law—a policy that was first announced by the LNP 12 months ago, a policy that was recommended by Walter Sofronoff after his review of parole late last year, a policy that the LNP tried to introduce when the first tranche of reforms about the parole system came in in May but was rejected by this government. This government was dragged kicking and screaming to this parliament to introduce a bill that all Queenslanders would agree is a good one. Finally, at the last sitting of parliament we saw that legislation passed.

The satisfaction that comes from the adoption of this policy has been overshadowed by one of the most shameful, cruel acts of deception that this parliament has seen in living memory: the action of the Minister for Corrective Services, the member for Morayfield. Gary and Leanne Pullen campaigned fearlessly for the introduction of the no-body no-parole laws after their son Tim was killed by a bunch of thugs who, despite being convicted, have not to this moment revealed the whereabouts of Tim's remains. They also campaigned for the scope of these laws to be widened so that those charged with accessory after the fact of manslaughter, one of the convictions associated with the men who are responsible for disposing of Tim's body, would be included in this legislation. Their hard work was rewarded. These laws were passed with those amendments.

That is where the deceit began. The Pullens were led to believe that the laws just passed would cover Tim's killers, those who were still incarcerated. The Minister for Corrective Services gave them no indication whatsoever that this was not the case, despite having the knowledge that one of their son's killers had had parole approved only days before. The minister and member for Morayfield should hang his head in shame for the way that he has used Gary and Leanne as political pawns—hugging and kissing them, slapping them on the back, claiming credit for the passage of the no-body no-parole laws and parading these poor people at a press conference. This behaviour was so appalling that a hardworking, long-serving public servant could not stand the charade and leaked information so that everybody knew the deceit that had taken place.

The Pullens were devastated when they were made aware of this situation when they were contacted by a newspaper journalist. 'Gutted', 'duped' and 'deceived' were the words they used when they contacted me. Despite the minister hearing of their hurt, when asked by a journalist whether he would apologise he said, 'If that's what they want.' How do members think the Pullens received the apology when he rang a couple of days later after hearing that comment made a few days before? The minister has hidden under the cloak of confidentiality to excuse himself from advising the Pullens. While the minister might be bound legally, he was not bound morally. To parade the Pullens like a trophy at

this press conference is nothing short of shameful. The Premier by her silence—talk about a lack of leadership—has given her approval to the charade that took place. When there is good news to share the Premier is everywhere but when there is bad news she flees.

Because of the minister's atrocious behaviour, this House should pass a motion to censure the Minister for Corrective Services for his disgraceful treatment of the Pullen family. I seek leave to move a motion without notice.