




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 24 August 2017

MOTION

Minister for Corrective Services

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (6.00 pm): I move—

That this House has no confidence in the Minister for Corrective Services following his treatment of the Pullen family.

The appalling behaviour of the Minister for Corrective Services towards Gary and Leanne Pullen has been laid bare for all to see over this last week. This side of the House has no confidence in a minister who would treat a grieving family so cruelly. The Pullens are a family that have been through hell over the last five years—with the killing of their son, Tim, and then the added pain of not knowing where his remains are today. This pain has been exacerbated by the way that they were used, in their own words, like pawns by the Minister for Corrective Services.

Knowing full well that their son's killer had been granted parole only a few days before, the member for Morayfield had no qualms about parading the Pullens like a trophy at a press conference celebrating the passing of the bill. Gary and Leanne were led to believe that their son's killer would be covered by this legislation, and the minister made a conscious decision not to inform them. Whilst the minister may have been bound by confidentiality, if he had just an ounce of decency, he would not have invited them to the press conference and he would not have celebrated with them on the passing of the bill, adding to their belief that this law would cover their son's killers. What we are talking about here is moral leadership—or, more accurately, a lack of moral leadership. You just do not do that to people, particularly people who have been rocked by an enormous tragedy in their lives and people who are still grieving the loss of their son.

Today it got worse. When the minister eventually rang the Pullens to apologise for his behaviour, he reassured them. He stated that he was comfortable with not revealing he knew that their son's killer had been granted parole knowing that this decision in light of the new legislation would be reviewed. He dangled false hope in front of them. He gave them hope that this decision would be overturned. Today we find out that that original decision to grant Benjamin Oakley parole—after serving just over 18 months of an eight-year sentence and not having revealed the location of Tim Pullen's body—was upheld. They are devastated, they are gutted and they are confused. They wonder why that law was passed in the first place if it does not cover one of Tim's killers who is still serving time in jail.

I appeal to the House tonight. I appeal to the crossbenchers to consider whether the Pullens have been treated with dignity and with respect by the Minister for Corrective Services. I appeal to the Premier to show moral leadership and to stand the Minister for Corrective Services down. How could any family of a victim of crime have confidence that this minister has their back? We would not know any of this if it were not for the actions of a public servant who had a conscience and had the highest integrity to out himself. We would not have known any of this had that person not shown moral courage himself. I urge the House to show Queenslanders that this type of behaviour by a minister of the crown is totally unacceptable. Members can do that by supporting my motion of no confidence in the Minister for Corrective Services.