




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 23 March 2017

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Driscoll, Mr S

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.26 am): On 10 March this year, finally the people of Redcliffe got some closure on a very long, sad saga: Scott Driscoll. Our community suffered considerably at the hands of this man. The Redcliffe community association closed its doors and staff lost their jobs. When those staff came and saw me that day, their concern was not their jobs and their wages; their concern was, 'What do I do tomorrow when the clients turn up needing support?'—the support for women who are victims of domestic violence, the child support and family reunification, the breakfasts for homeless people. They were concerned about the community. I still meet those staff at events and on the streets of Redcliffe, and I can say that they are still hurting.

This was a very sad occasion. The fact is: I do not blame the LNP for Scott Driscoll's actions, but it must take some responsibility for what it did to support his claims in relation to this issue. Not only did Scott Driscoll come into this place and claim there was a smear campaign orchestrated by the then leader of the opposition, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and me as the then federal member; that was backed in by Campbell Newman as premier and by the member for Aspley in *Hansard*. They were all saying that this was just a smear campaign by Labor, Annastacia Palaszczuk and Yvette D'Ath and that there was no substance to it.

This is a man who only two weeks ago pleaded guilty to 15 fraud related charges, yet those on the other side of the House have never retracted the allegations they made. We know that they accepted over \$50,000 in donations from Scott Driscoll and they have never given that to a charity or community organisation on the Redcliffe peninsula. There were many in the community, including myself, who knew what this man was like. I watched him spend thousands of dollars as the head of the Retail Traders and Shopkeepers Association week after week running half-page ads about himself and I said, 'This is a man who's lining himself up for politics and look at the money he's spending from this organisation and the community.' Then I saw he got endorsed and we were still saying, 'This is wrong. This man should not be in parliament,' and then he got elected and they backed him in. It is time they repaid the donation.

(Time expired)