



Speech By  
**Ros Bates**


**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2018

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Mental Health System**

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.00 pm): Under Labor our mental health system has lurched from one crisis to another, all while the focus should be on helping those who need better treatment and more support. Let us go through it. There have been unlawful appointments to the tribunal, claims of nepotism and thousands of client cases under a cloud. The latest scandal to plague our mental health system is covered in an article in today's *Australian* titled 'Mum's anger at psychiatrist's tell-all murder book'. Sonia Anderson had to read information about the final moments of her daughter, Bianca Girven, in a book released last night by Dr Donald Grant, a Queensland Health psychiatrist formerly appointed by the Mental Health Court to provide an independent report on Bianca's killer.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): Members, there is too much audible conversation. Please take your conversations outside.

**Ms BATES:** The excuse used—that this information was published to contribute to the national conversation on mental health—is an insult to Bianca's memory and her mother, and Sonia Anderson is rightly outraged. Anyone who knows Sonia and her story knows that she is a tireless advocate for the families of victims and for reforming the system to prevent harm to others. Sonia maintains that this was not public information. The DPP had the reports and she was not allowed to know what was in those reports. The information that was public was what was physically heard in court or what the judge published in her findings. No other information was ever made public. Sonia is rightly concerned about the events around the publication of this book. No mother should learn about the last words of her daughter before she was choked to death through a book that she was not even consulted about.

Sonia was a tower of strength in her campaign to help the LNP pass important bail and parole reforms for domestic violence victims in Queensland in the last term of parliament. She deserves much better. I am absolutely shocked and appalled that Sonia has had to relive this trauma all over again. I am calling on health minister Steven Miles to apologise to Sonia for having to go through this. We also need an investigation into how someone who was employed by Queensland Health can put into the public domain information that was never known to the families of victims. We should also stop the profits from this book going to the author. We need to ensure that we are looking after the real victims in this scenario—the families of those who have been killed. Sonia deserves answers from this minister and this Labor government. That is what we are calling for today. They should show her some decency, explain why this has happened and outline what will be done to ensure it does not happen again. The minister also needs to guarantee to Sonia and the people of Queensland that the perpetrator of Bianca's murder will not harm anyone else if he is released back into the community.