




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2018

MOTION

Domestic and Family Violence, Public Service Leave Provisions

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.51 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. There have been some very powerful arguments from this side of the House, but I particularly want to make reference to the points made by the member for Maroochydore to bring some perspective to this debate tonight.

There is not one person on this side of the House who does not agree with the *Not now, not ever* report. We agree with every recommendation that has been made and we have supported it. What we will not support is some ideological addition that this Labor government has brought in to reward the abhorrent behaviour of perpetrators of domestic violence. What is wrong with this mob? Why are they always out of step with public sentiment? Why do they always favour perpetrators rather than the victims of crime? What they are advocating for is nothing more than wife bashers' leave. They are supporting those who do the wrong thing by women by giving them taxpayer funded paid leave.

Yesterday when the Premier was asked this question, I thought she would quickly realise they had made a mistake. I thought that she would go away, come back this morning, make a statement and say, 'We have made a mistake and we are reversing that decision.' Not only have they defended this; they have doubled down and advocated for this further. The Minister for Industrial Relations said that not only should it happen in Queensland but it should be spread right across the nation. Everybody in the Public Service in this country should get extra paid leave to attend courses and do whatever else the courts might recommend.

Yesterday the Premier also hid behind the courts and said that they have no choice. The courts make orders to say that perpetrators have to attend courses and do other things to change their behaviour. They said nothing about giving them extra paid leave to do those courses. We agree they should do those courses, but they should do them in their own time and in their own recreation leave or long service leave. I think it is more appropriate that they have nil pay. This government constantly gets their priorities wrong. Again I ask: why do they always favour perpetrators rather than the victims of crime? We see this time and time again with a whole range of policies.

A few weeks ago, the same minister responsible for this particular abhorrent policy proudly announced \$17 million to help young offenders get through the bail system. That is \$17 million to help them with their bail applications; \$17 million to make sure they adhere to their bail conditions. This is the same government that says breach of bail is not an offence. Go and ask the people of North Queensland and Far North Queensland what they think about a policy like that. What are we doing for the victims? What are we doing for the people who have had their houses broken into, their cars stolen or who have been terrorised on the streets? No, this government constantly looks at what we should do for the perpetrators. 'We need to love them.' 'We need to understand them.' What about the victims?

If I go back to my old housing portfolio, there are people in public housing who terrorise their neighbours and wreck their houses. What does this government do? This government supports them and makes excuses for them rather than worrying about the victims next door. Time and time again we see their ideology drive them to these crazy left-leaning policies. I am also a proud White Ribbon ambassador, and I would never accept that our side of parliament would do anything that would not be seen to be against domestic violence. There are some policies that are just truly ridiculous, and this is one of them. We are going to campaign in every one of your electorates. We are going to put DLs out and advise them that you voted—

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair.

Mr MANDER: You voted for—

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair.

Mr MANDER: You voted for paid leave for wife bashers—

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair, member.

Mr MANDER:—and I will never forget that.