




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 28 February 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Cuthbert, Mrs S

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (2.06 pm): As the sun set over the Sunshine Coast hinterland on Thursday, 27 July 2017, Michael Cuthbert kissed his wife, Sharon, goodbye for the last time. She lay on the road outside their family home lifeless. She was struck and killed by a truck—the driver of which had more than seven full seconds to see her, a driver who had been caught speeding 18 times, a driver who returned a positive roadside test for meth. In the short time I have today, I want to put two things on the record—some heartfelt words about Sharon Cuthbert and a call for justice.

Sharon was 24 when she met Michael Cuthbert and fell in love. Within two short years, Michael proposed on Daydream Island, they were married and soon after welcomed Makayla and Shylah—Mak and Shy. Sharon and Michael lived at Coolum. Sharon worked at Noosa council and Michael worked as a local construction manager. Sharon deeply loved Michael, Mak and Shy. As a family, they loved the beach, camping and travel. The present was sweet and the future bright for the Cuthberts. Sharon loved her team at work and they loved her. They remember her as caring, friendly and radiant. Sharon's maiden name was Angelo—Italian for 'angel'. To those who knew her, that is exactly what she was.

Sharon was 39 when she died. If life begins at 40, hers was just beginning when it was taken away. The man who killed her, Andrew Muirhead, was also 39. He will get to live his life with only one year of it behind bars. Three weeks ago, Michael, Mak and Shy learnt that Muirhead may only serve 12 months in jail. Last week they received a letter informing them that the Attorney-General had refused their pleas for an appeal. The Attorney-General herself did not sign this letter; she had a political staffer do it for her. While the Attorney-General and her staffer may not think this decision should be appealed, I have here a petition with the names of 7,500 others who do—7,500 members of our community who share our anger, 7,500 Queenslanders who are disgusted with this government for not trying harder, 7,500 Queenslanders who want justice for Sharon. I now table this petition.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding justice for Sharon Cuthbert [289](#).

Michael, Mak and Shy, who are here today, know there is nothing they can do to bring back their angel. The best they can hope for is justice, and a chance for justice rests firmly with the Attorney-General. The appeal period lapses on Monday, and I urge the Attorney-General to do the right thing.