



Speech By  
**Stephen Andrew**


**MEMBER FOR MIRANI**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 September 2019

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Family Law System, Federal Government Inquiry**

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (2.38 pm): Marry in haste and repent at leisure. These are the words that my grandfather and father have said to me for years. I know that when we debate legislation in this House we cannot legislate for human nature, but today in the federal parliament—and this is bigger than politics—it was decided that there will be an inquiry into the family law system.

Just yesterday a gentleman who was suicidal walked into my office. We spoke with him and we sorted him out, but there is a bigger problem going on. There are people dying every week—women and men. Families are suffering going through this. If there was a transport system where we knew that if people got on they were going to lose their lives, I am sure we would not be getting on and I am sure I would not be allowing my family to get on. These things happen, so I urge all Queenslanders to put in a submission. I am a member of the state Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and people can lodge submissions into any topic that we are inquiring into to tell us what is going on.

The Family Court has been in place since 1975. We need to make it a better system for the young ones, the mums and dads, the grandmothers, the grandfathers and the extended family so that we do not lose people, so that kids do not suffer, so that families have a better life. I think it is very important that we all get together and make submissions to this inquiry.