



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 February 2019

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Fardon, Mr RJ**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (11.18 am): During question time the member for Toowoomba South asked the Premier a question in relation to a text message and the Premier indicated that she would ask me to respond. Firstly, in relation to the court decision I make it very clear that it was the court that imposed the suppression order. It was not at the request of the government or an application of the government.

The court granted permission for information to be shared with relevant government and operational staff and, at the request of the state, the court granted permission for information to be shared with the victims. In doing so, it was a requirement of the court to inform people of the court's continuing suppression order and the operation of contempt of court if it is breached. In fact, that information and requirement to be made aware of the conditions of the suppression order were made clear to all of my ministerial staff, to me and to all officers who were granted permission to be aware of that order at the time.

In relation to Ms Tomlinson, I have no intentions of divulging private conversations which I have had or my office has had with her other than to state that she was verbally advised, after we sought permission from the court, of the decision of the court in the Fardon matter and of the suppression order and, as required by the court, advised what the consequences would be if there was a breach of that suppression order. It was entirely appropriate for those court orders to be followed in conveying the consequences of contempt and it would be irresponsible not to advise that individual of the consequences.

As I say, Ms Tomlinson was advised verbally by my office and asked whether she was happy to then have that forwarded on in a text to just confirm in writing what was required by the court and she agreed. That is the context of that text message. It is not to cause harm or in any way threaten a victim of Robert Fardon but to advise her of the consequences of the order if there was to be a breach, as we are required to do by the court. It is offensive and disgusting that those opposite would use the understandable pain and anguish of a victim for cheap, inaccurate political pointscore. My thoughts are constantly with Ms Tomlinson and other victims of not just this individual but individuals collectively, and these individuals should not be used as political pawns in the public space.