




Speech By
Ali King

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

Record of Proceedings, 16 September 2021

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Respect@Work; Women, Safety

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.15 pm): Even the LNP cannot dispute that Scott Morrison is absolutely useless in a crisis. When we faced horrific bushfires, he did not hold a hose. In the global pandemic, he did not order the vaccines and he did not give the doses. Christian Porter goes from bad to worse, but Scott Morrison just will not let him go. When it came to the absolute crisis in women's safety and *Respect@Work*, Scotty did not want to know. Scott Morrison always has some syrupy words about the importance of women being safe and respected. He is big on announcements, but he is forever missing in action.

For as long as possible, the Morrison government refused to release Kate Jenkins' groundbreaking *Respect@Work* report into women's experiences of sexual harassment at work, but once he decided that the heat was off, the truth came out. The very week before the national summit into women's safety, Scott Morrison and his women's cabinet voted to implement only six of 52 recommendations from the *Respect@Work* report. Shameful! They blocked amendments to include positive duty on employers to prevent sexual harassment from happening in the first place. They blocked amendments reviewing the Fair Work system to ensure sexual harassment was specifically prohibited. They blocked amendments to protect victims of sexual harassment from massive legal bills.

Labor knows it, Queensland knows it, Australia knows it and women everywhere know it: Scott Morrison and the LNP just do not back women at work. Maybe that is why in this parliamentary workplace the entire LNP women's caucus would fit in a maxi taxi. Occasionally, the LNP say that they would like to see more women in parliament, but we—

Ms CAMM: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence to the comments made by the member for Pumicestone as a member of the LNP and being female.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I do not need any assistance taking that point of order. I will just take some advice. Because the member has said something that you take personally offensive and we are able to identify you in a narrow class, to put it that way, I will allow the point of order. I ask the member to withdraw.

Ms KING: I withdraw. Occasionally the LNP say they would like to see more women in parliament, but they are certainly not taking any concrete steps to ensure that happens. There has not been a peep out of the Queensland LNP when it comes to the need to see the *Respect@Work* report implemented.

What a contrast to the actions of the Palaszczuk Labor government. We have taken every single action on every single step toward implementing the recommendations of the *Respect@Work* report where they apply to the Queensland government.

When Scott Morrison's government would not commit ongoing funding to the Queensland Working Women's Centres, we picked up their slack. We are looking at a review of the Anti-Discrimination Act which will include looking at a positive duty for employers.

The reason is that when women across this country marched asking for respect at work we listened. When they came out and shared their experience of sexual harassment, we listened. We are still listening and we will always listen. I do not know if the LNP can listen. When it comes to women being safe and respected at work, I quote the Prime Minister's most memorable campaign: Scott Morrison, where the bloody hell are you?

(Time expired)