



Speech By
Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Sexual Violence Awareness Month; Health Services; Coronavirus, Vaccination

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (3.21 pm): October marks Sexual Violence Awareness Month. I draw the attention of the House to the statistics that increase every single year, with one in five women experiencing sexual assault since the age of 15 and one in two experiencing sexual harassment. This number only increases for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The majority know their offenders, and it is estimated that 75 per cent of sexual assaults are never reported. This certainly is the case in North Queensland, as evidenced on recent visits I have had and stakeholder meetings I have undertaken on the Tablelands, in particular with the Atherton sexual assault counselling service. The hours of travel they undertake in order to meet with their constituents, particularly children, who require counselling in the broader areas of Etheridge, Croydon and Mareeba are not covered under their funding and service arrangements. I stand here to advocate on behalf of all the sexual assault services in Queensland. The Attorney-General needs to look at this. The government needs to look at increasing the core funding and acknowledge that regional and rural areas are not adequately funded. I would also like to acknowledge the Queensland Sexual Assault Network and their continued advocacy, and I congratulate them on the \$150,000 that has been committed to them by the government.

I would also like to draw the attention of the House to the Health Crisis Town Hall that was hosted in Mackay which over 60 people attended. I would like to acknowledge Amy for the courage she showed when she came forward to share the complications she suffered after her C-section which has traumatised her and is making her question whether she will have children in the future.

I would also like to acknowledge the brave family of Warren McCarthy from Mackay. In May 2021 Warren was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. The treatment and options he received from the local health service were nothing short of unsatisfactory. In fact, I draw the attention of the House and the Minister for Health to the inaction that Ryan's Rule is actually delivering for people in my community across Mackay and the Whitsundays. They are invoking Ryan's Rule but ending up with the same specialist giving another opinion. It is ludicrous that this is the only option we have. I see the member for Mackay, the assistant health minister, in the chamber. I hope she advocates on behalf of families in Mackay that are experiencing this from the health service, because it is simply not good enough.

I also draw to the attention of the House and the tourism minister that, when ministers and the Premier threaten to shut down my community based upon our vaccination rates, we do not have a Queensland Health walk-in vaccination hub in the Whitsunday electorate.

Mr Harper: Is George helping them?

Ms CAMM: We do not have a walk-in hub in the electorate! There is a two-week wait for Pfizer vaccines in my electorate, so we will not meet the deadline because there are no hubs.