




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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MOTION

Women

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.16 pm): I rise to contribute to this very important motion. As I have said publicly over the last week—and in fact for many years—no form of sexual harassment is ever okay. We need changes to attitudes from men and from women in power. As we in this House stand in a privileged position, it is incumbent on each and every one of us to listen to that next generation about how they believe they are being treated. When they look to their political leaders, irrespective of the side of parliament they represent, they should know that it is not okay to be treated in the manner that at times the women on the coalition side are treated by men in power on the other side of the chamber. I do not make that statement lightly, but I have sat in a position of power as leader of a major political party in this state. I have been treated with disdain and disrespect because I am a female who chose to represent a conservative political party in this state. This is an issue that is above politics. It is incumbent on each and every one of us in this chamber to say that and to understand that that is going on. It is above politics.

I have just had lunch with three incredible future leaders in this great state: Jasmine, Mia and Olivia. I said that I was about to talk on this very important issue. They said to me, 'Our male friends need to be convinced that women are still discriminated against.' That is from the mouth of a 17-year-old girl. 'The boys do not believe it is an issue, and my issue is that I don't feel safe when I leave uni at night.' These are three future leaders in our great state, and that is their young female perspective.

We also need to listen to future leaders such as Mason Black from BBC. His words rang true. We need to make sure that everyone across society knows that women deserve respect. They deserve to feel safe in their home, to feel safe in their workplace and to be respected in the positions they have in this great world of ours. I am very pleased to stand in this chamber and use the position of power that I have—and we all should unite—to condemn these vile actions.