




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 24 March 2021

MOTION

Women

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (3.41 pm): I rise in support of this motion today. I think what we have heard in this chamber, what we have heard over the last few weeks, is really just the tip of a very large iceberg. There is a mighty boys club movement that has existed for generations among industries and I say to those in that club: this motion is for you; please pay attention. To those brave women who have shared their stories, thank you for your courage. To those women who have not shared their stories for fear, for shame, for the embarrassment, this motion is for you, too.

The member for Redcliffe touched on social media. I do not think we can underplay the role of media and social media in the problem that we have before us today. It has exacerbated the issue and I think that every woman in this chamber, particularly given the profile of MPs, will have experienced some of the most horrid comments from people. These are people who do not even know us; they have never met us in person. They are keyboard warriors that have a sense of bravery and have been empowered by social media. We have to do better in that space. We absolutely have to do better. We all have a role to play in that.

To Mason Black, I commend you for speaking out to young boys because I think that is where it is at. That is absolutely where it is at: it is the leadership of our young men. As many contributors have said today, every young man has a mum. Our family units are important, and they have become ever more complex. I heard repeatedly last week during the public hearings for the youth justice reforms of the complexities within our families. We need to do better in that space. We need to do better about how we talk about this issue in our families and in our homes.

To my son, Luke, I say I am extraordinarily proud of the young man that you are. I know that we as a society need to come together and leverage off what Mason Black says. The more we can share that with our young men and women, the better we will be. I commend the work that is happening in the education space around respectful relationships. I think that that is really important, although there is always more to do in that space. Going forward, none of us inside or outside of this chamber can be a bystander on such a significant issue. I commend this motion to the House.