




Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

Record of Proceedings, 24 March 2021

MOTION

Women

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (3.15 pm): I rise to speak to the motion moved by the Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk. We are lucky to live in a democratic country with the freedom to speak freely and voice our opinion on issues we feel strongly about. We as MPs are the fortunate few who have the opportunity to speak in this parliament on issues such as this and to place our thoughts on the public record.

Watching the thousands of Queenslanders who rallied to express their views on equality and justice for all women was inspiring. Women and men of all ages and backgrounds stood together letting us know how they felt about women being treated with disrespect and how they were advocating for change now—not tomorrow, but now. Their message was heard loud and clear by all of us.

I was lucky enough to have had a very strong female influence as I was growing up—that was my mother. We became even closer after my father passed away, leaving us to manage the property where we both lived. She is still my sounding-board and I value her measured wisdom, depth of knowledge and understanding on many and varied topics.

No-one should feel vulnerable to negative impacts of another in their home, workplace or community. We should all feel safe. This is even more so for the women in our state, nation and the world. We need to ensure women are equal to their male counterparts and have the opportunity to feel free to voice any injustices they may have been subjected to.

I hold my female parliamentary colleagues in high regard and have always worked willingly and with great respect alongside them—on both sides of the chamber. I may not always agree with the policy position of those opposite but have always treated them with respect, and none of them can deny that. The female parliamentary staff I worked with during my time serving on committees were proficient and capable. I have a very high opinion and regard for their professionalism and knowledge.

In any given week I associate and communicate with females in my work environment, my social environment and my family environment. At all times I value their input and appreciate their contribution to our society. Since I entered parliament the Condamine electorate staff have been all female, with the exception of one male for a period of about 18 months. These ladies have been invaluable to the smooth operation of my office and the constituency I represent. Their empathy, kindness and understanding towards all people who come into the office for assistance and guidance have been an inspiration to me.

The events of the last few weeks have highlighted the injustices in many workplaces—and there are many. I made a comment to a minister opposite at a dinner we went to only a couple of nights ago about the lack of female representation. There is much work to do.