




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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MOTION

Women

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (2.40 pm): To a large extent the events of recent weeks have shocked many in our community and, in particular, I think they have shocked many men by exposing behaviour that is utterly incomprehensible and utterly unacceptable. On no planet is it understandable, funny, appropriate or acceptable for men to behave in the way that we have seen in the past month. It has unleashed a torrent that we have all felt in our electorates, in the broader community and in our homes. Certainly it has for me. I have reflected on my time as a student both at school and at university, as a young lawyer and as a member of this place. I have reflected on some of the things that I have done, which I now see are not the way things should have been.

We have shared the experiences of those close to us: our friends, our families and our colleagues. I pay particular tribute to those in this place now and those who have been in this place—and I think of my friend Kate Jones—who have stood to tell stories that cannot have been easy to tell. I pay tribute to all the women who have shared their stories. I hope that as a result of those stories being told we will have a better community for women and that includes my 18-year-old daughter Kate.

Kate enjoys a full, happy and, dare I say it, privileged life. She went to a good school and has had a great education. She has great friends. As far I am aware, she is blissfully free from any of the troubles and traumas that we have heard about. But even she has hooked into and sent me text messages about the events of the last weeks. I hope things will be better for my 20- and 21-year-old sons. They will have a better life and live in a better community if their female friends have a better life and live in a better community. Our society will be better in so many ways in terms of community, work and family when women are afforded the same rights as men.

I say to all men that being a man does not mean it is okay to mistreat women. It does not mean it is okay to objectify and denigrate. Being a man means behaving properly, with respect, care and decency. Being a man means standing up and being counted in this debate. Finally, being a man means setting the example—not denying the problem—by standing beside and working with women for the change in attitude and behaviour that will see women feel able to participate in community life free from the fear of assault, intimidation and unwanted and unwarranted physical contact. That is being a man.