




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MOTION

Women

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.25 pm): It is unfortunate that we should have to move a motion like this in 2021, but I am proud to be able to speak to it. I want to acknowledge all of the contributions of everyone on this important motion. As members would know, I posted my story the day after the march last week because I wanted to give a voice to women in all positions to say that it is okay to speak up and that this is not just something that happened 30 years ago. It has always happened and it continues to happen. If people like me in a position like mine cannot speak up, then how do we expect an 18-year-old being harassed in the workplace today to be willing to share their story? That is why I told my story.

One thing that we have to do in changing the culture out there and talking about respect is talk about what is happening online as well, because people are becoming keyboard warriors which is exacerbating it. Why would women come forward and tell their stories when the harassment online is so appalling? I want to give a couple of examples, and I have asked Amy Remeikis if she minds me saying this and she has given me her support. Amy posted on Twitter—

Just for a moment, imagine what it has been like to be a sexual assault survivor working in Parliament House at the time, listening to this stuff. Doing your job. Calling it out. And then you keep getting stuff like this. All. The. Time.

The response—and I cannot read all of it—is—

the pm is a—

effing—

hero hope u gt raped again and they finish the job thistime

I would hold this up but I cannot because of the word written across it and the image, but I will take advice from the Clerk as to whether I can table it. In my posts talking about a father of two wanting to kiss me intimately as a 13- or 14-year-old, one response was—

You had a bf at 13?

That is what they took away from my story? How about—

No way she's way to ugly for this to be true

Someone else put—

i thought the same thing

These are some of the other comments—

Must have been a blind man

Another one was—

Oh for gods sake, get over yourself. there are children being raped and females being abused or raped ... thousands of people male and female have been kissed or touched ... hope they aren't all going to come out whinging when many others have serious issues to deal with.

Yet another was—

Here we go ..

She must have seen the money after 30 years ..

Yet another—

Bla bla bla, it was 3 decades ago, shut up

And another—

Oh boo hoo she was harassed

And another—

Must have been desperate

And another—

d'ath is a waste of space ... & if they harassed her it was because she was a super ugly bottle blonde!!!!

These are just some of the comments, and they wonder why women will not speak up. This is appalling behaviour. If they want something current, how about two years ago when as the attorney-general I was groped by an international judge at a conference in this parliament? This is still happening today. It has to stop.