




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2022

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.25 pm): I rise to inform the House that this Friday in fact is the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence, and I do so to inform the state's Premier, who clearly demonstrated in the last 24 hours simply how out of touch she is when it comes to workplace bullying, that continuously repeating that it is a serious issue is no longer good enough nor is it acceptable on behalf of Queensland women.

When third parties like Hearts of Purple—and I hope we see their wheelie bins continue to be in the Queensland parliament over the coming months—highlight, 'The first female Integrity Commissioner of Queensland has raised serious allegations about workplace misogyny,' it must be clear that this is a very serious matter for countless women across our state. KLM Solicitors' Kelli Martin, who is a very credentialed advocate when it comes to family and domestic violence prevention and who has served on the Red Rose Foundation and also as legal counsel for one of the most horrific domestic violence tragedies we have seen in this state, outlined, 'To tell a woman to get into a room with her accuser and have a "full and frank discussion" is dismissive and entirely inappropriate.'

I urge the Premier and her department to contact Ms Martin so that perhaps she can better inform and educate the Premier, her staff and her 30-strong media team how inappropriate that advice to Queensland women was—that you should be vulnerable and get into a room with your alleged perpetrator to sort things out and have a frank and fearless conversation. It just demonstrates how out of touch this Premier is.

In fact, I had high regard for some of the ministers on the other side until this morning when the Attorney-General rose and was then silenced by the member for Sandgate, who did not even respond to what women across this state are crying out for—and that is leadership; when the Minister for Employment stood up and shamefully backed the Premier; and when the Minister for Housing stood up and backed the Premier and defended the Premier's comments.

We have read the transcript and I have watched it on the Premier's own Facebook page twice. The message was loud and clear to women: 'This is not a serious issue. This is not a serious issue for this government.' We, as Queensland women, are tired of the government paying lip-service with no action and no protection. In fact, what we heard from the Premier was nothing but ill-informed and, I would say, inexperienced when it comes to workplace bullying and harassment. What does it look like to keep women safe in Queensland? According to this government, it is offering all the announcements, platitudes, reviews and task forces in the world but no action that actually leads to change to protect women.

I also wanted to highlight the comments of Robert Setter, the Chief Executive of the Queensland Public Service Commission, when he said that he was 'surprised' that the Integrity Commissioner used parliamentary privilege.

Perhaps there is a reason the Integrity Commissioner used parliamentary privilege. Females across the state know what it means to speak up against a workplace bully, someone who may be superior, someone who may be protected. To educate the Premier, the ministers opposite and the government as a whole, it is called victim blaming. As one of the most senior public officials in this state, Robert Setter victim blamed one of the most credible professional female public servants we have seen in this state. For that we demand that the Premier withdraw her comments, apologise for her comments, and instructs Robert setter similarly to apologise to the Integrity Commissioner.

When it comes to women's safety this government is all talk. As we explore the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce documents, this government should see it as a scathing performance review on their last eight years in power. It should be a scathing reminder of the ineffective action and policies they have undertaken to protect Queensland women. We saw that further demonstrated by the Premier's own words yesterday.