



Speech By  
**Amanda Camm**


**MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2022

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Community Safety, Women**

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.37 pm): I too would like to acknowledge the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report: *Hear her voice*. As we work through the recommendations, I recognise how much this means to domestic and family violence victims—those who are alive and, sadly, those who are no longer with us—and their families in changing the way we support them as we work towards securing women's safety across our state. The task force is seeking feedback on women's and girls' experiences of the criminal justice system as victims and survivors of sexual violence. I think it is very important we reflect upon what the opposition has raised as a very serious issue of the forensic services lab.

I would like everyone in this House and in particular the minister to imagine this. Imagine finishing work hosting a charity event where you were the MC. It is 8 pm. You head out to your local nightspot. You are catching up with friends. You order a drink—a vodka, lime and soda. You put it down. You turn your back. As you chat with your friends, the music is loud. You may dance later. You sip again. It is not more than 10 minutes and you start to feel very unwell. You feel a wave of sickness. You tell your girlfriend you are going to the bathroom. As you head there, you feel very unwell so you bypass the bathroom and head to the car park. As you walk out, the fresh air hits you. The last thing you remember seeing is the street lights. Your legs feel like jelly before they go from under you. You wake. Your head hurts. Your head is pounding. Your body is aching. You are in and out of consciousness. You feel something—something inside you. Imagine realising that someone is inside you.

You want to scream, but you cannot. You open your eyes. You see hair. You feel a body on yours. You pass out again. When you wake, you wake in a ball of pain. You have been dragged. As you touch your lip, you feel blood. You taste blood. Your body is bruised. You have scratches. Your underwear is torn. Pieces of gravel and dirt are stuck to your skin. You somehow manage to get to your car to get home. You are so sore—sore on the inside. Your hips feel torn.

You summon the courage to call a friend because you need to go to the hospital. They sit in emergency with you, waiting for what feels like days. No-one is qualified to use the rape kit on this shift and you have to wait for the shift change. They examine your most private area, the area most violated. They take swabs. They take hair samples. They check your nails.

In the days following, you experience the shock that you have been drugged, that you have been raped, that you have given your statement to police and they think this has happened to other girls at that same bar many times before. You will have to wait for the tests. They will contact you.

Months and months pass. The police prosecutor calls. There is no DNA. There is no evidence. Your legs feel like jelly again as they collapse from underneath you. That perpetrator, that rapist, that person who violated you so, is out there. He will do it again. There will be no justice. There will be no trial. All of your courage is wasted for nothing.

That is why the lab review matters. Women are contacting the opposition about why this matters, why this should matter to every member of this House, why this matters to Queenslanders. We talk about safety and we talk about women's safety, yet there is just this one lab, which has such an important job to protect Queenslanders and to provide evidence so that victims who are so courageous in coming forward can have their justice. Hear her voice.