



Speech By  
**Amanda Camm**


**MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2022

**MOTION**

**Federal Morrison Government**

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (5.09 pm): I would like to remind the housing minister and the Attorney-General that domestic and family violence is the No. 1 contributing risk to homelessness for women. I recently visited the Gold Coast, and this Queensland Labor government should hang its head in shame. There are vulnerable, high-risk women across this state sleeping in their cars with their children and their pets because there are not enough placements in refuges. There are women and children who have been in refuges for 12 to 18 months because there is no social housing, there is no community housing, and because of a lack of confidence in this Queensland Labor government there is no free market opportunity either.

**Mr Harper** interjected.

**Ms CAMM:** I will take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa. The member should be ashamed—I am sure he will take personal offence—about the number of women sleeping in their cars in Far North Queensland. I meet with DV services across this state, and I hear from women's refuges that this government is facilitating a revolving door of women who have no choice but to return to their perpetrators because there are no housing options for them.

**Mr Mander:** Disgraceful!

**Ms CAMM:** It is disgraceful. When our numbers continue to climb it is because this government has failed to provide women with a safe place to go. The Scott Morrison government has invested more Commonwealth money in domestic and family violence and housing provisions than any other government. In 2019 in my own community there was \$78 million on the table for refuges across our state and our nation. What did this Labor government do? It decided not to fund the operations for a refuge. The Salvation Army had no choice but to decline the federal government's funding to build another refuge in Mackay.

I say to the minister: it is your job, mate, to make sure that women are protected. I say to the minister for small business that your impact is catastrophic. When a woman dies because she has nowhere safe to live, I hope the minister is proud about the funding she rejected from the federal government. We can talk about a choice in 20-something days, but in October 2024 there will be a choice. This housing crisis will be worse because there will be more women at risk, there will be fewer places for people to live, and this minister will be held to account.