



Speech By  
**Amanda Camm**


**MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY**

---

Record of Proceedings, 30 August 2022

## **MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

### **Gender Equality**

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.46 pm): We have heard a lot in the chamber today about who works hard, who works on weekends and who has amazing experiences as part of our role as MPs. One thing I would like to draw the House's attention to is the fact that yesterday was Equal Pay Day in Australia. Across our nation there are 60 extra days on average—as at the end of last financial year—that every Australian woman must work to earn the same as men. Workplace Gender Equality Agency's director Mary Wooldridge stated—

As a result of the gender pay gap, many Australian women have to work harder to make ends meet with very little room for discretionary spending or saving once they've covered the cost of daily essentials.

I am sure there are many people in this House who potentially do not fully understand the impact that has on women's lives across our state. With the cost of living continuing to blow out, the increased pressure of inflation and a housing crisis where we see more women, in particular women over the age of 50, at risk of homelessness, this is a real issue.

In Queensland we will recognise Equal Pay Day next week. It is important to highlight that Queensland women have to work an extra seven days—that is on top of the 60 days, so they have to work 67 days longer than men—compared to their counterparts around our nation. While we saw ministers and the Premier come in here this morning with a flashy brochure and talk about skills and going off to a summit for more talkfests, that translates to an out-of-touch approach when it comes to recognising what the reality is for women in this state.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms CAMM:** I will take that interjection from my colleague; it is lip-service. Once again we see—

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. If you want to interject you will need to be in your own seat.

**Ms CAMM:** Once again we see from those opposite glossy brochures discussing how things look, not dealing with the reality of how things are. During budget week I stated that the economic statement that was put forward by the government was seriously lacking. That has been validated by KPMG this week in its *Budgeting for gender equity*. That report highlights that all Australian governments at all levels that have not done so yet should be taking a leaf out of the book of New South Wales and Victoria and consider improvements based on those leading practices of the likes of Canada and Sweden.

We certainly do not see any new ideas out of this Treasurer when it comes to women's economic security, and we have a Minister for Women who delegates every element of the portfolio to other ministers who do not want to step up and take responsibility or accountability when it comes to women's economic security either. Right now, Queensland is not even mentioned. A tiny Women's Budget

Statement lists some general steps that this government has taken, but it does not cut it—and it does not cut it with women across our state. There are no new policy ideas. There are no new ideas coming forward when it comes to looking at how the gender pay gap—we are behind the other states—is going to be addressed.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that this Thursday the Red Rose Foundation will be holding a rally outside of Parliament House. In the last few weeks we have seen, more than ever before, a number of lives lost in horrific and devastating circumstances of alleged domestic and family violence. Potentially another five people—a number of women and one man—have died as a result of alleged domestic and family violence. It is incumbent upon all of us in this House to recognise that these individuals are people with families; they are people from our community.

I encourage all members, from both sides of the House and the crossbench, to stand as one on Thursday in support and recognition to ensure we are doing everything we can to call out domestic and family violence. We say over and over again that one life is one too many, yet every day another death is reported.