




Speech By
Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Minister for Women

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.00 pm): The opposition welcomes the introduction of the bill by the Attorney-General today. This is a milestone that has been built on the LNP's initiative of the *Not now, not ever* report. We thank the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce for their recommendations and thank all stakeholders, particularly those with lived experience, who have contributed to the bill which the House will consider.

Cultural change and action—and action more than words—is what is needed. Why did the Minister for Women not call-out a fellow minister's derogatory comments to a senior female member of the opposition? Where was the accountability for her cabinet colleague? The minister did not call-out and condemn the Premier's suggestion that DV advocates who had been guests in this House of the member for Surfers Paradise were on a late-night rendezvous. Where was the Minister for Women when it comes to calling out sexist behaviour and sexist comments? There was silence.

In Sexual Violence Awareness Month where was the Minister for Women when the Leader of the Opposition and I stood up for sexual violence victims of this state who were being billed by Queensland Health for forensic rape kits? Where was the Minister for Women when it comes to advocating to her fellow cabinet colleagues—to the Minister for Health—when we see what is being reported in the media now around the evidence of a culture of sexual harassment and discrimination in Queensland Police Service? Where is the Minister for Women when it comes to calling out that behaviour and advocating to her ministerial colleagues for the need for cultural change?

The standard that we are prepared to not call out is the standard we accept. Women across this state are not accepting of the fact that in the last 12 months we have seen an increase in sexual assault of almost 30 per cent. They are not going to accept the failings of a forensic lab that is going to retraumatise victims of sexual violence in this state. The Minister for Women does not stand up and advocate on behalf of those women of our state. We hear the rhetoric of the Premier and the Minister for Women that they will keep Queensland women safe. After the last eight years of this Palaszczuk Labor government women are no safer.