




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2022

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Redlands Electorate; Williams, Mayor K

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.32 pm): Can I start by saying that the hearts of our community were broken on Australia Day in 2021 when we lost Matt, Kate and baby Miles. I do not think there was anybody in the Redlands who did not feel absolutely shattered that day. I will table the same set of documents that the member for Capalaba tabled.

Tabled paper: Bundle of papers concerning right to information release regarding 'Our fight for justice' ePetition [1143](#).

I know the member for Oodgeroo took a point of order before. I would ask him to deeply reflect on that text message that is contained in that RTI. I ask him to deeply reflect because that is not legacy. That is absolutely not legacy.

Dr Robinson: I think you are out of context.

Ms RICHARDS: I am not out of context. Talk about integrity! When you see the transactions in that document, when you see the communications and they have the audacity to talk about integrity—moral compass! My goodness gracious me! It is so off course—it is not funny—off course. Playing politics with tragedy is not okay. Playing politics is not okay.

I want to read to you the mayor's media release to launch the petition that was tabled in the House today. It was constructed with the assistance of the LNP. You really need to let these words sink in and then juxtapose those against the mayor's actions only 13 days after putting out this media release. It states—

We were all shocked when Matt, Kate and Miles lost their lives. But that shock turned to anger this week when we learned of the grossly inadequate sentence given to their killer.

The member for Capalaba and I got straight on the phone that day and took—

Mrs McMahon: He was a kid.

Ms RICHARDS: Yes. We took the appropriate course. We did not politic it with a dirty big petition. Let the hypocrisy of this sink in. The next statement in the media release says—

For our justice system to suggest three lives are worth as little as six years is astonishing and I am calling for this grossly inadequate sentence to be appealed and for the State Government to change the legislation so another family doesn't have to go through what Russell and Ann have been through.

The mayor goes on to say—

Last night I kissed my grandkids good night; but the driver of that car robbed Russell and Ann of being able to do that and there needs to be consequences.

Through the good grace of God nobody was killed that night when she was 0.177 behind the wheel of a council vehicle. By the good grace of God nobody was injured in that accident. That is sheer luck—absolute luck.

Councillor Williams went on to say that the death of Kate, Matthew and Miles had been felt across the Redlands and people were quite rightly upset, and that is absolutely the case. She said—

As a community we all grieve with Russell, Ann and the rest of their family and we will walk beside them each and every step to ensure the loss of Kate, Matt and Miles is not in vain. As Mayor I hear and see the pain in my community and I can't stand by and do nothing; now is the time for leadership, now is the time for action.

Please, think about those words and think about her actions just 13 days after that media release. There is not anybody that does not think that that moral compass is so off course. It is perverse.

Putting that into context with what the member for Capalaba just said, to actually think that you could do a Zoom phone call, at six o'clock, after you have delivered a budget, fairly and squarely intoxicated—

Ms Camm: Don't look at us!

Ms RICHARDS: You have a look at the RTI documents, member for Whitsunday.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Put your comments through the chair, please.

Ms RICHARDS: To think she did a Zoom meeting with those families, with their loved ones, who had lost their families to drink-drivers and then jumped into the car—you cannot even reconcile that. That is absolutely unfathomable.

I will table this letter from the mayor directly to me, again 13 days after the incident. Talk about leadership. As elected representatives, it is so critical that we lead by example and demonstrate the highest regard for our community. Our community should expect nothing less. In her letter, the mayor says—

As local leaders we need to do all we can to protect our community and I ask you to join me in supporting this petition so together we can send a strong message.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 10 June 2022, from the Mayor, Redland City Council, Ms Karen Williams, to the member for Redlands, Ms Kim Richards MP, regarding launch of parliamentary petition [1144](#).

Well, the hypocrisy! Deadset! It is unbelievable to use this tragedy as a way to politic. It beggars belief. Words are really cheap.

(Time expired)