



Speech By  
**Michael Berkman**


**MEMBER FOR MAIWAR**

---

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2022

**MOTION**

**Women in Sport**

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (5.25 pm): I do not need my five minutes. It is very rare for us on the crossbench to have an opportunity to contribute on a private member's motion, so I will just take the opportunity to put on the record how repugnant I find this motion and I want to speak very briefly in support of all of those trans people in my life—all my friends and loved ones—for whom this motion is a real affront. It is completely unnecessary to drag this kind of disgusting conservative dog-whistling politics in here, and I think it is telling that we are hearing not a single word from the opposition to speak against it. We still have the Prime Minister's hand-picked candidate down in Warringah who is being let off the chain to carry on with all kinds of disgusting transphobic rhetoric. We should not stand for it. We cannot stand for transphobia in this place or anywhere in society. I will leave it at that so that hopefully we can close off this debate and put the issue to bed.