



Speech By  
**Ros Bates**


**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2022

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Domestic and Family Violence**

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.06 pm): There is no more important job than protecting the vulnerable in our society—our children and vulnerable women. The record of those opposite, particularly the Minister for Women, the member for Waterford, and their history on child safety and domestic violence is simply shameful. Under her watch as child safety minister 12 children allegedly died in care under suspicious circumstances. These are just some of the names: Curtis Powell, Tiahleigh Palmer, Mason Jett Lee and Maddilyn-Rose Stokes. What happened to little Riviera, Minister? Their names, their lives, will not be forgotten by any of us on this side of the chamber.

Instead of taking responsibility, the minister attended Splendour in the Grass on the same day the front page of the *Courier-Mail* said the department and the minister knew about at least five deaths of children under suspicious circumstances. Who can forget the minister's admission that her then department washed the data before releasing it to the public? History will show that the member for Waterford was the worst child safety minister this state has ever seen. She was so bad the government had to move her into the witness protection program for failed child safety ministers—the small business portfolio.

As the Minister for Women or as the Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence or as the Attorney-General over the last seven years, we have all watched on as too many women have been killed by partners or other family members. On the Gold Coast we have watched in horror as the domestic crisis claims life after life. They are lives such as those of Tara Brown, bludgeoned to death; Teresa Bradford, stabbed by her husband; Larissa Beilby, bashed to death; Shelsea Schilling, suffocated; Melinda Homer, murdered; Karina Lock, gunned down; Fabiana Palhares, bludgeoned to death; Kym Cobby, strangled to death; Mary Benedito; and Kelly Wilkinson, burnt to death in an attack chillingly reminiscent of the awful murder of Hannah Clarke and her three beautiful children. At Logan Doreen Langham was killed despite calls to police for help.

How can anyone now take them seriously on these matters, particularly matters of domestic violence, when they are willing to have cabinet ministers call members in this place 'dopey, stupid women'? Those views are not acceptable.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Resume your seat. I will take some advice on that. I made it very clear yesterday in the contribution of another member that those words that you yourself found offensive were not to be repeated even as a quote. I ask you to withdraw those words. If they are used again by any member, I will be issuing warnings.

**Ms BATES:** I withdraw. I do not accept Minister Furner's apology. He has not apologised to me by name in this House or personally for his misogynistic and disrespectful comments. As a survivor of domestic violence, comments like these retraumatise victims like me and should never happen. In fact, they should never be uttered in any workplace, in any home or in any environment. How can the member

for Waterford, in good faith, sit around a cabinet table with someone capable of such utterances? Member for Waterford, where is the condemnation? Are these the standards that you are willing to accept—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Time has expired.

**Ms BATES:**—or does the minister only call out misogyny—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Time has expired. The member will resume her seat.

**Ms BATES:**—when it is politically convenient?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Your time has expired!