



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2022

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Member for Whitsunday; Star Entertainment Group, Fundraiser**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.03 pm): In response to the member for Whitsunday I say that I have been asked publicly many times about the appalling things we are seeing coming out of the commission of inquiry and have called it out. In terms of the forensic DNA commission of inquiry, we have \$1 million for sexual assault services to be able help victims who come forward as well as embedding a sexual assault worker in police operations. The member for Whitsunday was not here when the LNP was in government and they cut funding to DV services and cut funding to sexual assault services and, not just that, gagged them.

What I wanted to talk about today was how it all makes sense that we have not heard very much from the Leader of the Opposition about the Star Entertainment Group. At first I thought maybe that is because he had had some hospitality from the Star Entertainment Group: two tickets to Polo by the Sea and two tickets to Magic Millions Polo. I would say that if the people of Queensland knew that he spends his weekends drinking at the polo hosted by Star his reputation would be in tatters—or should I say Tattersalls. That was just my first thought, though.

Today we have heard that the Leader of the Opposition, along with the member for Mermaid Beach and the member for Kawana, and possibly even the member for Glass House, were at a fundraiser at the Star Gold Coast after it had been announced that there was to be an independent inquiry into Star. By all accounts it was a lavish affair. But do not take my word for it. This is how the Star describes where the fundraiser was held: 'Sharp. Vibrant. Sophisticated. Step out onto the rooftop and immerse yourself in The Star's uber-chic lounge bar. Slip into one of our private booths and enjoy world class VIP bottle service.' It sounds just like the Leader of the Opposition's style really. To his credit, I have heard that the Leader of the Opposition was a bit apprehensive about this fundraiser. He thought it might not be a good look. You think? Apparently the member for Mermaid Beach had a brilliant idea. 'I know,' he said, 'we'll do a walk through and meet and greet the staff so if this ever comes out you have a legitimate cover. Nothing to see here!'

We cannot make it up. In the same month the government announced an independent inquiry into Star casino, they were there raking in the dollars. How much did they get in that month? They got more than \$1.2 million in donations. We know that because of our real-time donation disclosure laws. I cannot believe they are trying to take the moral high ground on this issue. They should be ashamed.