




Speech By
Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.55 pm): From 25 November through to 10 December we acknowledge the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, an initiative by the United Nations, an initiative that is undertaken and carried out by many organisations across this state, including locally my Zonta clubs of Mackay and the Whitsundays. I acknowledge the volunteers and members of this club for their contribution in the 16 days of activism in advocating against gender-based violence. Members of the community will note across our local community, both in Mackay and Airlie Beach in the Whitsundays, the orange ladies that have been placed in not-for-profit businesses as well as private businesses. We thank them for their support and their advocacy.

What is sad and disgusting is that 56 women have been killed in Australia this year—that is more than one a week; seven just this month—as a result of violence. Twenty-eight have allegedly been killed at the hands of their male intimate partner or ex intimate partner. The fact that we have a project and a site counting dead women in Australia is shameful. It is upon everyone in this House, in particular the men in this House, to raise their voices in defence of gender-based violence against women.

On 1 December 2014, after being appointed by the LNP as the co-chair of the taskforce responsible for the *Not now, not ever* report, Dame Quentin Bryce said, 'Four decades of courageous social work led by women has not made headway against Australia's domestic violence problem, suggesting the key driver of change should be men and police.' Here we are almost a decade later. The independent Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence was a recommendation by the McMurdo report, to which many women and men across this state contributed. Its report was publicly released on 21 November 2022, just over a year ago, and still we are awaiting the police minister's statements to assure victims of gender-based violence that all recommendations have been adopted and implemented. It is upon the government to ensure that those recommendations are upheld. There were time frames associated with those recommendations. This is about saying not now, not ever. Zonta says no and we say no. I call on the minister to be held to account.