




Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Andrew, Mr S; Callide Electorate, Health Services

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (7.24 pm): In 2008 the Gladstone and wider Central Queensland community was rocked by the brutal murder of Joelean Lee Watson and the attempted murder of her two-year-old daughter, Makayla. The perpetrator was Joelean's ex-partner Shaun Andrew, who was Makayla's father. The brutality of this event sent reverberations through the community which still have impacts today.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member, I did not hear the date of that. We are checking that you are not offending any sub judice rules in relation to this?

Mr HEAD: Yes, it was 2008. The brutality of this event sent reverberations through the community which still have impacts today. The community understands that Shaun Andrew has applied for parole with the intention of living with his mother in the Boyne Valley. Joelean's parents, Linda and Glenn, have raised Makayla and are understandably haunted by the murder of their daughter. They reside in Calliope, a town with approximately 5,300 people, which is a service centre for the Boyne Valley and the access route to Gladstone. If this release occurs, there is a very high likelihood that Makayla, Linda, Glenn and family will come face to face with the perpetrator of violence against her.

Liz Cunningham, the former member for Gladstone, represented these communities for 20 years and has been supporting the family with a petition that was tabled in this House this morning. This petition has 1,815 signatures calling for truth in sentencing to ensure this violent perpetrator serves the full sentence imposed, which reflects the severity of his actions. Given the level of violence demonstrated by this offender, the community is appalled at the possibility he would be released into any community within hundreds of kilometres of Makayla and her family. On behalf of my community, I implore the government to act upon this petition.

I would like to draw to the attention of the House the fact that this Friday marks another disgraceful milestone of a government in the grips of chaos and crisis. This Friday marks one full year that the community of Biloela has been on birthing bypass. It also marks 12 months since the entire electorate of Callide has been without a maternity ward. This is an electorate larger than the state of Tasmania, or 1,427 times larger than the Premier's own electorate of Inala.

This government has started using our line that everyone deserves access to a world-class health system regardless of where they live. I say to the Premier and the health minister that it is about time they stopped talking about it and started doing something about it. The health minister flew into Gladstone for a picnic in a park and a photo opportunity and has been patting herself on the back for visiting various hospitals in Queensland, yet she has refused to front up to the hospitals and communities that are on the front line of Labor's health crisis.

(Time expired)