




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Cyberbullying

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.00 pm): We have seen extensive coverage of the dangers of social media in the last week being led by a *Courier-Mail* campaign, with the Premier releasing a media statement which states—

I've made it clear that social media companies should be held accountable for the damaging content they distribute, promote and refuse to take down.

This week both sides of the House have been offered a workshop on cyberbullying because of the attacks that women have faced, particularly female members of parliament. In the past 24 hours we have seen through the Minister for Women's own social media posts one of the worst—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member, resume your seat while I take some advice. Member, my view is that the matters you are raising here relate extremely closely and directly to the matters that today have been referred to the Ethics Committee. I would ask you to move on in your contribution.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have sought advice from the Clerk of Parliament with respect to that ruling issued by Mr Speaker this morning. I have been advised that the ruling issued by Mr Speaker this morning was very small. It was in terms of the refusal of the member for Mudgeeraba to withdraw those comments. The rest of the matters—the photos, the minister—have not been referred to the Ethics Committee. It is purely a matter of the member for Mudgeeraba refusing to withdraw those comments as per the Speaker's ruling and not the other matters. That is the advice I have received.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some further advice. I have requested the Clerk to come and give advice.

Thank you for your patience, members. I do appreciate the manner in which the chamber conducted itself while we waited for that advice. I am not going to grant that point of order. Member, you can continue your contribution if it is broadly related to cyberbullying, but you cannot refer to the matters that occurred at various points in the House over the past 24 hours as they pertain to the matters that have been referred to the Ethics Committee.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you would like to reflect on the chair, there are mechanisms.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am asking you to confirm for the House whether that is a ruling under the standing orders.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, that is my ruling.

Mr BLEIJIE: Then I give notice that I will move a motion of dissent from your ruling, Mr Deputy Speaker, because that is not the advice I received within the past half hour.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is fine.

Ms CAMM: The Premier released a media statement in which he said—

I've made it clear that social media companies should be held accountable for the damaging content they distribute, promote and refuse to take down.

I ask the Premier whether he is holding his own ministers to account for the damaging content they have distributed, promoted and refused to take down, as there is still content circulating across social media platforms right now by the Minister for Women.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I do not need the assistance of the House, member for Pine Rivers. Member for Whitsunday, I have given you very clear advice. I am going to allow you to continue with generalities, but if you continue to refer to those matters that I have directed you not to then I will cease your contribution.

Ms CAMM: I ask the Premier if he holds himself to this standard. This government has confirmed that you get results from toxic, misleading posts, so you may as well keep using them for your own gain and not worry about the impacts on anyone else. I refer the House to current posts posted on the Queensland state Labor Party's Facebook and social media sites. Do not worry about the threats, the abuse or the vitriol that it is inciting, particularly on female members of parliament. Do not worry about the example that it sets when you distort another person's words and pretend to be the one attacked when you are the attacker.

We all have a responsibility to our communities. As female leaders, I think we have a particular platform to share the experience of women and to work to improve women's safety, both in our communities and online. To use this place and that power to victimise another member of parliament is abhorrent, especially when you know that you may be misrepresenting another member's views for your own personal political gain. This week both sides of the House—and in particular females—have been offered a workshop on cyberbullying because of the attacks we have faced at an individual level. This has come about because of the disgusting abuse—and I have reached out to the other side of the House—many have experienced—

(Time expired)