Speech By

Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Women, Health

Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (2.10 pm): I rise today, in Women's Week, to stress how important it is that this government continues to deliver for women in this state. After hearing the Leader of the Opposition, I will have to start by saying that the Miles government has not and will not ever give up on integrity. In fact, we have some of the toughest integrity laws in the country. No misleading of parliament, no delusional or constant twisting of the truth or being bereft of ideas will change that particular point.

We have worked since we have been elected to ensure that the rights of women not only in the workplace but also in society are advanced and that they are able to access the services they need. It is needless for me to say how many of those advancements we have achieved. Only under Labor governments do women advance in society. It is very rare that we get any of these advancements under an LNP government. To see this, you only have to look at the 10 years of the previous federal LNP government. Not one thing came out that advanced the interests of women. In fact, when it came to female workers in vulnerable industries, they went backwards.

We are proud to have achieved the first paid domestic and family violence leave, portable long service leave for the community services sector, IR protection for sexual and gender-based harassment, improved parental leave, pay equity in the Public Service, significant improvements in superannuation and pay equity in the bargaining process. In the area of workplace health and safety, the psychological code of practice was enacted last year.

There are also some wonderful initiatives. The Minister for Education spoke about the Share the Dignity vending machines available in all of our schools providing free period products for people who need them. My constituency is particularly happy about access to the treatment of UTI infections and contraceptive medication in community pharmacies. We partnered with the Endometriosis Association of Queensland to develop a specialised endometriosis app. We decriminalised abortion; we took it out of the Criminal Code. We have implemented safe access zones for termination clinics. We have made revenge porn a criminal offence.

These are the issues that women are talking about. These are the issues that they are concerned about. They are also concerned about those issues affecting not only Queensland in a post-COVID environment but also every single state and territory in Australia, if not the world—issues like cost of living. It is not a Queensland phenomenon; it is an issue across the entire country. For the Leader of the Opposition to come in here and to try to twist the truth and say that somehow it is a Queensland-only issue shows that he is absolutely lacking in integrity.

The housing issue is an issue not only here in Queensland but all over the country—everywhere—and internationally as well. Health is an issue across Australia, not just in Queensland. Those opposite come in here and twist the truth—like somehow it has been ignored over the period of a darned decent Labor government—as they try to make out that it is only an issue here in Queensland.

The most serious issue of contempt is that someone in this House invaded the privacy of one of our female members by taking a photograph of a personal phone, against the standing orders of this House, held onto it since October—the Leader of the Opposition was fully aware of what was going on—and then used it for their grubby political tricks.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: All of your tricks will not convince the people of Queensland. Everything we have done will be at risk if the Leader of the Opposition is ever elected to government. We will spend every day reminding people that all they are good for is to cut, sack and sell.

(Time expired)