




Speech By
Jonty Bush

MEMBER FOR COOPER

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ADJOURNMENT

Gendered Violence; Cooper Electorate, Community Organisations

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (1.10 am): We have just experienced the national period of 16 Days of Activism, which is a time to recognize the urgency for all of us, but particularly our leaders and our decision-makers, to be accountable and to take bold steps to stop violence against women worldwide. There is a crisis here. Last year, globally, a woman or girl was killed by her partner or a family member every 10 minutes. In Australia, two in five women, which is nearly 40 per cent, have experienced violence since they were 15. Last year we had a 28 per cent increase in women being killed in Australia at the hands of a current or former partner. This year we have had an absolute shocker: the statistic used to be that in Australia a woman was killed every nine days; this year the statistic is that in Australia a woman is killed, mostly by a man, every six days. That is extraordinary.

Despite this crisis, not one word about it has been spoken by our Premier during the 16 Days of Activism period. We have not heard one word to acknowledge the pain, stories and experiences of Queensland women. At the election, Queenslanders spoke and told us that they want to feel safe. Safety is not an exclusive right. It is a right we all have. It is a right that all people in Queensland have and it is a right that all women in Queensland have. Gendered violence is the fastest growing crime in Queensland. When those opposite talk about rising crime numbers and victim numbers, what they fail to say is that the majority of those victims are women who have experienced violence at the hands of their partner or former partner. The picture is far more confronting if you look at our First Nations women, who represent a whopping 20 per cent of women murdered in Australia yet represent just 2.5 per cent of women in our population. It is essential that this government continues the important work that our government commenced in addressing violence against women. I am concerned that the ministerial charter letter for the Minister for Women does not make one mention of violence against women.

While I am on my feet, I take the chance to thank some local services that are bringing incredible Christmas cheer to our community. I thank our Rotary club, which is doing a fantastic job of coordinating our Christmas sleigh and the Dorrington Park Carols by Candlelight, and our Lions club is always helping out at this time of year with Christmas festivals. I also thank Paddington Terraces 4064, The Gap Creatives and The Gap She Shed, which have all hosted some fantastic Christmas markets that support small businesses in our local community. I thank them for their continued services at this time of year and wish my electorate and everyone here a very merry Christmas.