




Speech By
Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2024

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.19 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I want you to imagine this. You are a domestic violence survivor. Your DV perpetrator has stalked you, has harassed you, has threatened serious harm and violence against you and has been convicted. You have multiple DV orders against this perpetrator. He has threatened your life. You feel so unsafe that to protect you and your family you flee, moving multiple times in order to keep your location secret, only to discover that the Miles Labor government handed over your home address to your DV perpetrator. It was written there, inked in black and white, on a document given to your perpetrator. This happened to five victims of crime that we know of. It gets worse. The very same government that is meant to protect you claims it was not aware of this systemic failure until it saw it on the news.

Today we learned that victims emailed the minister in March, in April and in May to alert him to this systemic failure. They also wrote to Premier Miles. They risked their lives. The minister's own office referred the matter to the CCC and offered the victims CCTV cameras, as if that would be enough to protect them. Still, the minister and the commissioner claimed at estimates that they did not know. How can women feel safe under this state Labor government when, despite all of this, the minister claims he did not know. It was his job to know. It is their job to protect women and to believe women survivors who come forward to highlight systemic failures in the DV space and in the victim space.

This is a fundamental failure by those opposite. That the minister claims he did not know but in the same breath claims they are taking action is an absolute disgrace. That tells you everything you need to know about this Miles Labor government. They cannot protect women from domestic violence; they cannot protect women who are suffering as victims of crime. They have failed in their utmost responsibility as a government—that is, to keep victims of domestic violence and victims of crime safe. This is a state Labor government that is more interested in protecting itself. This minister is more interested in protecting himself than in protecting victim-survivors of DV and victims of crime.