




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.06 pm): My views and my experience around domestic and family violence are well known in this place. Domestic and family violence is a scourge on our society. I am a survivor of domestic and family violence and I have seen its wretchedness firsthand. As the LNP's shadow minister for women, I think it is important to acknowledge that when we have this conversation we must recognise that this scourge affects women at significantly higher rates than men. That is a well-known and well-established fact. Despite this, the scourge does not necessarily discriminate on age, class, religion or creed. Often it lurks in the dark, hidden in plain view across the cities and towns of our state. The impacts are real and severe. There is a societal impact of course, but the individual impacts are those which are most frightening. For those who have lived through it, the impacts do not ever leave. They are forever etched into their memory, into their minds and into their very being. The scars can be physical or they can be psychological—often both.

Every situation and circumstance is different but the level of courage it takes to come forward is truly immense. In some cases, coming forward might literally be a case of someone putting their life on the line. That is how serious this is. When a victim comes forward, we as a society need to make sure that victim or victims are cared for, that the necessary support services are wrapped around them and, perhaps most importantly, that they are protected. Through reporting in the media, we knew some time ago that victims of crime may have had their personal details leaked to the perpetrators who committed the crimes against them. The scale remains somewhat unknown. We understand that in at least one case the victim of crime was in fact a victim of family and domestic violence.

Just imagine: the person from whom you have fled in fear of your safety, in fear of your life even, now has your personal details, including your address. The fact that CCTV cameras had to be installed in that individual's house at the expense of the government shows that something went seriously wrong, yet despite at estimates senior police saying they were not aware of the issue, it has now come to light that the minister knew. He knew as early as March that a victim's details had been given to their perpetrator. When asked about it this morning, the minister first said he did not know anything about it. Then by the time of the next question, all of a sudden he knew everything about it. Minister, you cannot have it both ways. If there is a serious problem—and this is a serious problem—then Queenslanders deserve to know about it. Victims and survivors of family and domestic violence need to know about it and their protection has to be paramount. It has to be. If a problem was known and not acted on, that is gravely concerning. The government owes it to victims to be doing better than this.

(Time expired)