



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2024

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Queensland Women's Week**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (10.11 am): With March fast approaching, I am delighted to update the House on this year's theme for Queensland Women's Week. The theme 'Count Her In' is all about including women in everything we do, whether it is health, housing or supporting families with the cost of living. I would encourage all members of parliament to make sure they always count women in, because I think we should be able to agree that in 2024 counting women in is a universal, non-controversial idea. It is something that everyone in this place should champion, because thankfully the days of Parliament House being one big old boys' club is long gone—or is it?

I must say, I was very surprised to see one of the longest-serving members in this House yesterday hark back to days gone by. Yesterday morning the member for Surfers Paradise enlightened us all with an Instagram selfie video talking about his colleagues—'da boyz', as he put it. That is right; there was a video in the Strangers' dining room literally describing his party as a boys' club. This is parliament, not a frat house. Sadly, I think it is safe to say that no women were counted in in the filming of that video or even the decision to post it online.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, the minister is making a ministerial statement. You may not like—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I am giving a ruling, members. You will be very careful to not interrupt me. The minister is making a ministerial statement. You may not like the content of the statement, but you will hear the statement.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** For his part, the member for Bonney told the member for Surfers Paradise that he believes some might say he has spent too long in this place. After seeing the video yesterday I might well agree.