



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 March 2024

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Liberal National Party, Women**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (2.21 pm): It tells you everything you need to know about the opposition when the Deputy Leader of the Opposition gets up and says that what we have talked about in the House today has been a 'distraction'. I tell you what, member for Kawana, talking about women's rights in the workplace, talking about respect at work for women and talking about women's health for Queensland women and girls is absolutely not a distraction—absolutely not.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. I will take some advice. Member for Mudgeeraba, some of the language that we have heard you use in your interjections is unparliamentary. I would ask you to withdraw.

**Ms BATES:** I withdraw.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** To suggest that us talking about women being respected in the workplace, their privacy in the workplace and not having male colleagues leering over their shoulders and taking photographs of them is absolutely not a distraction.

I spoke this morning about women's health. One of the issues that again came through very clearly in our consultation with women and girls was about a woman's right to choose. As I said this morning, Labor will always defend a woman's right to choose. It is a fundamental principle that we hold dear and will not compromise on because some things should be above politics. A woman's right to decide if, when and how she has a child is absolutely one of those things. We know that almost every one of those members opposite voted to keep abortion in our Criminal Code. We know that the Leader of the Opposition did not have the conviction or courage to tell women why he thought abortion should stay in the Criminal Code. He then tried to tell us 'you all know where I stand on this', whilst refusing to rule out criminalising abortion once again.

We all know that actions speak louder than words, and the LNP's decision to preference One Nation in the Ipswich West by-election truly does say it all. The Leader of the Opposition wants Queenslanders to believe that he is a respectable, moderate politician yet at the same time his party is giving political support to the party of Pauline Hanson. Why is that? Why does this matter so much? It is because it serves the Leader of the Opposition perfectly. We know that he is slippery with the truth and that he will say whatever it takes for him to get elected. Fundamentally, the LNP and One Nation are virtually identical when it comes to their stance on women's rights and women's access to health care. We know that the member for Mudgeeraba, the LNP's health spokesperson, voted to keep abortion in the Criminal Code and is quoted as saying, 'As a nurse, I do not offer my support to this vote.'

The LNP then went to the 2020 Queensland election promising to review and wind back our laws. One Nation also went to the 2020 election promising to wind back our laws and their official policy position is still to seek every opportunity to roll back 'brutal and extreme abortion law'. This is why the Leader of the Opposition has chosen to align himself with One Nation. He has chosen to align himself with Malcolm Roberts who has protested our abortion laws here in Queensland by saying that it was part of a global UN conspiracy agenda. At that same protest, Malcolm Roberts carried a sign with the current LNP members for Moggill and Oodgeroo. This is the same member for Oodgeroo who said that the former member for South Brisbane—a proud woman of Lebanese heritage—was on a jihad to legalise abortion. It is no wonder they get on so well with One Nation. This is the same member for Oodgeroo who will be replaced by Amanda Stoker, the infamously anti-choice far right activist. Stoker is such a fan of the far right political judges in the US who overturned Roe v Wade—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Kawana is warned under the standing orders.

**Ms FENTIMAN:**—that she has publicly called for Australian governments to appoint the same kind of judges here in Australia. This is who the Leader of the Opposition wants on his team—someone who has openly advocated for the politicisation of our courts in order to wind back women's rights. I say to the LNP: shame on you for partnering with One Nation and shame on you for not standing up for women and girls.

*(Time expired)*