




Speech By
Hon. Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

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MOTION

Member for Stafford

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (12.16 pm): I refer to media reports in the *Australian* as well as previous media reports in the *Courier-Mail*—and I can validate those reports if required—about the member for Stafford's absence from the House in that it has been over 100 days since the member for Stafford was last in this House. That is a fact. We were all here at the swearing in of members of this parliament and the member for Stafford was not here. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition—

Ms Pease: We can talk about Southern Downs.

Ms CAMM: I take the interjection. I really look forward to hearing those opposite stand up and speak about the confidence they have in supporting the member for Stafford. I also look forward to hearing from the opposition leader today that he has full confidence in his member's ability to perform his duties not only in this House but also in the electorate. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition was even willing to use the member for Stafford's proxy vote in backroom Labor deals—the factional wars that we are seeing by those opposite. I wonder now who those frenemies are, as the *Australian* so eloquently reported, with regard to the member's demise.

If all of those opposite were so supportive of the member for Stafford then the speaking list should be filled with supporters, but instead what we see is chaos and crisis and factional wars. The Leader of the Opposition is not up for it and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition does not seem to be up for it, but maybe they will prove me wrong in their contributions. Maybe today we will hear from the opposition leader that he puts his full support behind the member for Stafford and trusts that the member can perform his duties. If the member for Murrumba is willing to accept what has been alleged in the media as the standard of behaviour for members of parliament—members of his own team—then let him be heard in this House today.

I note the member for Stafford's social media post of 5 February when he was out campaigning with the new Labor candidate for Brisbane. We all know that there is a federal election looming and we know that from time to time state members go out there supporting their federal candidates or colleagues. This also happens at a local government level. I note that that is in the member for Stafford's social media posts. What we have not seen, though, is the member for Stafford out campaigning with the federal member for Lilley.

I question those opposite as to whether the federal member for Lilley supports the member for Stafford as reported by the government. In relation to female members of the opposition it has also been reported that there are some who do not want to sit in the same room as the member for Stafford. If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition does not want to speak up for those women on that side of the House who do not feel comfortable I will. I will stand up for those women who may feel that they are not

free to speak freely about whether they feel comfortable with a fellow MP. As women we should feel safe in our workplace, we should feel comfortable and we should call out behaviour if we do not accept it. We should not be bystanders. I look forward to hearing from the Leader of the Opposition as to his support for what has been alleged in the media. If this had occurred to one of the members on this side of the House we would not have waited until 12 o'clock to be debating a motion.

Mrs Nightingale: Don't think you're standing up for women.

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection. I do stand up for women. I stand up for women each and every day. In fact, we have good men on this side of the House who stand up for women as well. We have men on this side of the House who stand up when women are not feeling comfortable, when women do not feel safe in their workplace. I look forward to hearing from all of those women opposite, in particular the member who continues to interject, the member for Inala. I look forward to her contribution endorsing the member for Stafford.