




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 29 April 2025

**CRIME AND CORRUPTION (RESTORING REPORTING POWERS) AMENDMENT
BILL**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeester—ALP) (6.08 pm): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I appreciate that. I do apologise. I was not on the list to speak tonight. I did not intend to speak tonight because the crime and corruption amendment bill is something that this side of the House has acted on in goodwill and, of course, we have heard speakers previously speak favourably with regard to some of the aspects of that bill.

Unfortunately, what we have seen once again today is a government introducing amendments without any warning—amendments that have a huge impact on working people in Queensland and in particular on women, on people who are living with disability, on people who every day are dealing with discrimination. This Attorney-General has decided to introduce amendments at the last minute, but this is a government that has form in this space. On its very first day in this parliament we saw it introduce legislation that removed the Path to Treaty legislation without any warning, without any consultation and without any ability for a committee to do work in that space, and we are seeing it again now.

The respect at work act is a really important one. The Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Bill and the anti-discrimination laws have been worked on for many years—in fact, about 2½ years of consultation has been undertaken—and the fact that we are seeing amendments that will see an indefinite delay in the implementation of that is an absolute shame and it is a disgrace. Given that we are on the eve of domestic violence month and at a time when we need this legislation to protect women in particular in the workforce, this just goes to show exactly where this government is in terms of its headspace.

An article in the *Guardian* which referred to the amendments that have been brought forward today around respect at work and the anti-discrimination laws said that those laws were designed to protect victims of domestic violence, homeless people, women at work and others. The act was the most substantial reform to the state's anti-discrimination laws since they were passed in 1991. It was pretty clear that it was time to make some changes to modernise it after an absolutely shameful set of circumstances with all of that absolutely horrible stuff that came out of Citipointe where teachers were being discriminated against by a particular school that decided that it wanted to be able to sack people who might have a certain sexual orientation. That was an absolute disgrace.

When we heard that the Attorney-General was going to delay the implementation of respect at work we heard people from across all sectors come out in absolute dismay and absolutely disgraced by the Attorney-General. The *Guardian* article quotes Matilda Alexander from the Queensland Independent Disability Advocacy Network as saying—

Queenslanders with a disability had been waiting 'too long' for changes to discrimination and hate speech laws.

For the first time, hate speech would have been unlawful on the basis of disability. For the first time victims of crime and domestic violence would have been protected from discrimination ...

Justice delayed is justice denied. This delay will mean people with disability will continue to experience unfair discrimination, hate speech, abuse and harm.

As the shadow spokesperson for disability services in this state, I absolutely stand by the words of the Queensland Independent Disability Advocacy Network on this. The fact that we are once again seeing these amendments rushed into this place now—this is how this government operates; just rush it through with no ability to have any committee consultation on this matter—just goes to show what it thinks of people living with disabilities in this state: that it would be happy for them to continue to live with the potential to experience unfair discrimination, hate speech, abuse and harm towards them.

Why would those opposite do that? Why would any government create a situation where people living with a disability can be exposed to this? However, this government has form in this space. Respect at work also means being able to protect women who are experiencing domestic violence in their workplace. Why would those opposite delay that? That is an absolute disgrace. I think any woman in Queensland becoming aware of the fact that this government wishes to indefinitely delay the implementation of this work would be absolutely shocked, yet those opposite say that it is because they need a little more time to consult. It was developed after a 3½-year consultation process conducted by the Queensland Human Rights Commission. As I said earlier, all of that was sparked by this scandal at Brisbane Citipointe Christian College which required families to sign a statement declaring homosexual acts are immoral.

If this government and those opposite are standing for discrimination, then these rushed amendments are an absolute sign of where their heads are at on this issue. It is absolutely disgusting that those opposite would go ahead and indefinitely delay a really important piece of legislation that ensures that people are not being subjected to hate speech.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms ENOCH: Absolutely; I cannot understand. There was 3½ years of consultation to ensure that we saw those changes. These laws needed to be changed. It was time for that change and we had done the work to make sure that that could change. After that process, we see those opposite absolutely turning their backs once again on the most vulnerable people in this state—

An opposition member: DV victims.

Ms ENOCH:—DV victims and people living with disabilities. To add salt into the wound for DV victims, we are on the eve of DV month. What on earth? Please stand up and do the right thing by the people of Queensland and the discrimination—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Everton, I will warn you if you continue to interject. They are not being taken.

Ms ENOCH: The member for Everton is constantly yelling over women, screaming at women—

Ms Fentiman: Kicking old ladies out of their social housing.

Ms ENOCH:—kicking old ladies out of their housing, complaining that there are too many women on the Parole Board. I mean, seriously—and now he is in here complaining that we are saying that it is not right to indefinitely delay legislation that would protect women. It is absolutely a complete disgrace.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango and member for Everton, the interjections are not being taken. Please desist.

Ms ENOCH: The government in moving these rushed amendments is showing its hand. It does not believe in the legislation. It does not believe in protecting people from discrimination, from hate speech and from the harm that that causes. Honestly, I would expect a lot better from a woman Attorney-General who says every day that she stands up for people and victims, yet today she is turning her back on victims.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask the member withdraw.

Ms ENOCH: I withdraw.