



Speech By  
**Hon. Meaghan Scanlon**


**MEMBER FOR GAVEN**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 September 2025

**MOTION**

**No Confidence in Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services**

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (5.51 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Labor opposition leader. The member for Currumbin wants Queenslanders to believe it is Labor that called her 'erratic' or said that she was 'flying off the handle' or that she yells and swears at senior public servants, but let us be clear. We did not say those things; those words came from leaks from people sitting beside her. The question is: who might have that motive? The obvious place to look is the member for Oodgeroo, who we know is desperate to get on the front bench. Of course, you could not have too many women sitting in the cabinet so she has to go after one of the other women in the cabinet.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! I need to hear the speaker.

**Ms SCANLON:** I wondered whether it was the member for Whitsunday, but we did see her get up and hear her try to defend the member for Currumbin for her actions. The track record of the member for Whitsunday is taking the portfolios of other ministers. The member for Warrego lost her portfolio at the drop of a hat. I was also interested in the amendment moved by the member for Whitsunday, which talks about victim numbers. The fact is that those victim numbers exclude breaches of domestic and family violence. It is pretty shameful that the minister got up and talked about those numbers but seemingly does not care about the very women and children she professes to represent.

There is one MP who I notice has been very quiet during this debate and very quiet during question time—in fact, he had his head in his phone during all of question time yesterday. That is the member for Bonney. His silence is very interesting. I know that the member for Bonney would find it particularly irritating that the once self-proclaimed tram enthusiast has been trumped by the member for Currumbin. He no doubt would also be upset about the fact that the member for Currumbin has leapfrogged him in the cabinet.

**Ms Fentiman:** Maybe he's the leak.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection from the member for Waterford. I suspect he is the leaker. If he is, what is particularly galling is the fact that later in the day he was joking with the member for Currumbin—the very image of Brutus smiling as he sharpened his blade. Whoever it is who is leaking, the sharks are swarming. With friends like these, who needs enemies?

The member for Currumbin tries to say that this is all a distraction from her performance. The Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition have outlined a range of measures that demonstrate that the member for Currumbin is not fit for the job. In less than a year she set up a so-called independent Expert Legal Panel, but senior police officers and senior legal professionals were

saying, 'Why would you go on this thing?' and then she refuses to release the panel's advice. When she was questioned by Tim Arvier, a very senior journalist, she apparently accused him of being some sort of Labor stooge. No wonder the Public Service decided to employ that very individual—to try to stop him from asking those questions of people like the member for Currumbin.

Who can forget the decision by the member for Currumbin to allow her car to be parked in a disabled parking bay? That has a real impact.

**Mr Crisafulli:** That is a real disgrace. Are you going to withdraw that?

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection from the Premier. Apparently, that is a real disgrace but not the conduct of his minister. There have been staff shortages at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre that are so dire they have had only three days this year when all of the units have not been in night mode. There is no timeline, no funding—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Gaven, pause for a moment. There are a lot of conversations going on in all corners of the chamber at the moment which is making it very difficult to hear what is going on. I would like more order, please, members.

**Ms SCANLON:** The new youth detention centre in Edmonton in North Queensland has been scrapped. She did not even consult her own colleagues. She seems to have a problem with Far North Queensland, because there is still no FASD funding up there, despite those crime rates. God help anyone who tries to criticise her, because she will just try to put a gag motion on you if you are a youth justice organisation. That sector then revolted. That is the only reason they had to change.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** The real hypocrisy from the man who continues to interject, because he clearly feels threatened, is that the Premier set very clear KPIs. He set very clear standards for his ministers. In fact, the member for Currumbin's own charter letter said that she must uphold 'courtesy and respect' in her conduct. After almost a year, we have chaos, leaks, erratic behaviour and a minister who has failed to meet the standard the Premier set. He set that benchmark; we did not set the benchmark for those opposite. The Premier set that benchmark and, as I suspect, what we will discover is that the Premier's word means absolutely nothing.

*(Time expired)*