




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

Record of Proceedings, 10 December 2025

MOTION

Wieambilla, Deaths

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (6.21 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. I want to respond to some comments that have been made by those opposite who have said that they need to take six months to respond to the Coroner's findings. That is not at all what this report says—in fact, page 253 of the report says 'within six months'. The government could do it within a shorter period than six months if they wanted to.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, Attorney-General!

Ms SCANLON: We have seen those opposite act with lightning speed when they want to. We have seen them act with lightning speed when it suits their political ideology, but now we are expected to believe they have woken up and they want to act calmly and methodically on these recommendations. I am not sure where that calmness and methodical analysis of policy reform was when they came into this House on pill testing, on gender-affirming care, on gagging anyone in this parliament from talking about abortion—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will not warn you again, Attorney-General.

Ms SCANLON:—despite the fact that all of those measures were backed by experts. However, now they expect us to believe that we need to wait for action to be taken.

I also acknowledge that there are people with lived experience on the front line here. I acknowledge every single former police officer in this parliament, including the member for Macalister, who those opposite frequently choose to leave out and ignore her distinguished experience. We acknowledge the deeply personal connections that many people have in this parliament. My dad was a police officer. He had retired by the time I was old enough to fully understand the job, but the stories, the risk and the fear that families carry lived in our home. I grew up hearing the quiet uncertainty in the way my mum spoke about those years. I think most families of frontline officers expect governments to act when there is a tragedy.

If those opposite were serious about supporting police officers, if they were supportive of the front line, then they would accept these recommendations and move quickly—not wait for six months. These are not radical reforms. In fact, some of them are in place in New South Wales and Western Australia, where we actually have leaders who have taken political courage—but I suspect they were not getting money from the gun lobby. The only people who evidently are wanting to delay these reforms are the government because we know they are lobby obsessed, whether it is gun lobbyists or any lobbyist for that matter. If you get in their ear and give this government money, then they will do whatever you want.

We had a police minister who ducked the same question six times. All of us on this side appreciate that law reform can take some time, but at the very least he could have just responded to the question asked and given an indication about whether the government supported some of these measures. We know it is not that he did not know what the recommendations in fact said; it is that he was terrified of upsetting the gun lobby because his government is beholden to the loudest fringe, not the safety of Queenslanders. This is the same government that loves the rhetoric of being tough on crime, yet the moment the gun-toting extremists appear in the story they evaporate. We had a drive-by shooting on the Gold Coast this week in the Premier's own electorate—not that he would know because he does not live there. A quiet suburban street was sprayed with bullets.

Government members interjected.

Ms SCANLON: Those opposite think it is funny. Kids were trying to sleep while a gunman literally tore through their street, but where is the Premier? He has gone to ground once again when it gets difficult, because this government cannot bring itself to confront the people it now takes cues from—the gun lobby, the antireform activists and the growing fringe that, frankly, wants Queensland politics to look more like Trump's America than modern Australia.

Speaker, you cannot keep communities safe if you do not stand up to the gun lobby. We have all heard the statistics. I was listening to the member for McConnel's contribution about the actual leadership that was taken by John Howard years ago on gun law reform. I do not agree with most of what John Howard actually stood for, but I do agree with what he brought in at that time. He acted within 12 days because he knew that action needed to be taken. We will not see that from this government because they are more interested in politics than outcomes.

(Time expired)