



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**LNP State Conference**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (2.27 pm): Some interesting things happened over the weekend. I think some of the actions that happened over the weekend tell Queenslanders everything they need to know about the LNP. At their conference, the LNP women's branch was thrown into chaos. Members apparently walked out. Who came out on top? A candidate whose claim to fame is being an outspoken anti-abortion activist. This is who now sits on the LNP's powerful state executive. This is who David Crisafulli is letting shape his party's agenda.

He can say all he likes about 'modernising', but the truth is his party is captured by the far right. Queensland women should be very worried because, when it comes to women's rights, those opposite cannot be trusted. We saw it in estimates. The Minister for Women referred to her previous comments on the termination of pregnancy—she would not say what they were. She had to read a note passed by her chief of staff to say that she referred to her previous comments—which, for the record, is that she voted to keep abortion a crime here in Queensland.

It would now seem that the LNP have installed someone as president who wants to wind back hard fought for protections for women—someone who has lobbied and protested against a woman's right to choose in Queensland. I thought that was pretty bad. Then I read in the paper on Monday morning that the LNP have signalled that they want to review the 'generosity' of paid domestic and family violence leave.

Today we have been lectured to by those opposite about our track record on delivering for women, but I note that none of the women opposite have used their opportunity today in the House to call this out and say, 'We support victims of domestic and family violence and we do not think paid domestic and family violence leave is too generous.' We have not heard any of them stand up and denounce the LNP branch members who determined that domestic and family violence leave is too generous. Let's be clear: this leave is not a luxury. This leave is not too generous. It is there so that victim-survivors can attend court, see a doctor, organise counselling or flee their home safely. Every single day, women rely on this protection. So many women have sought paid leave from their employer and from the Queensland government as a result of the violence they are experiencing. To call it into question is disgraceful. The Premier should apologise to Queenslanders who are relying on this leave to escape violence, because threatening to take it away and describing it as too generous is undermining the safety so many women have fought hard to achieve.

It does not stop there. Over the weekend, under this Premier the LNP also wants to repeal hate crime laws. These laws protect people from being targeted because of their race, religion, sexuality and gender identity. Let's call this what it is: a green light to discrimination and vilification. After listening to the contribution of the member for Whitsunday in question time this morning, it is obvious they are not even waiting for the Premier to repeal these laws before they start attacking transgender Queenslanders.

**Ms Camm** interjected.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** It was not an attack on me, member for Whitsunday; it was an attack on transgender Queenslanders. This is not some side issue from the conference—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order! Member for Whitsunday and members on my left, I lost the member for Waterford for a few minutes, so you might want to keep it down a bit.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Rather than standing up today and talking about the issues facing women in Queensland, like men's violence or the economic inequality women face, they want to talk about culture wars and cheap politics imported from Donald Trump and the US. That is exactly the sort of comment the Premier stood up on the weekend and said they need to steer clear off. The member for Whitsunday clearly has a very different idea.

When faced with the choice to unite or divide, the LNP always reaches for division because that is who they are. This is a pattern. At every turn the LNP sides with extremists. They undermine protections for victim-survivors. They want to roll back laws on abortion and hate crime, and they come in here and call it tokenistic to wear purple to support the queer community—

*(Time expired)*