



Speech By
Bisma Asif

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 11 February 2026

MOTION

Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (6.03 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Mansfield. The Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence has cheated the people of Queensland. The minister has cheated and failed in her responsibility to support Queenslanders facing natural disasters, to support women, men, children and families experiencing family and domestic violence, and to protect the most vulnerable children in our state. The minister has failed in all three. There is a pattern of deflection and abandoning those who need the minister most—abandoning vulnerable children and people who are being faced with family and domestic violence. What a shame!

The minister accepted this critical responsibility and she made a commitment to protect these people. Then, at a time when Queenslanders desperately need more services and support, she was nowhere to be found. We need more specialist resources to combat the epidemic we have in family and domestic violence, and we are presented with cuts.

While women impacted by family and domestic violence have been turned away and told to wait up to 20 days for help, the LNP minister has made the unconscionable decision to disband a specialist unit providing statewide support to women, men and children facing family and domestic violence. This is a catastrophic failure in her duty as minister. While domestic and family violence rates explode through our state, the decision is indefensible. Last week, the minister came out and said there was 'nothing to see here'. There were no words of support for the frontline workers who are doing the most when it comes to this epidemic. They were told to just ignore the fact that this unit had been disbanded and there were no other resources going to be provided for this. I cannot fathom how the minister can get away with this failure.

I know there are many knives being sharpened on the other side because I think they all see that there are failures on the minister's part. I can think of a few—potentially the highly reported 'rising star' the member for Gregory, or maybe it is the member for Oodgeroo. Maybe the Premier is already considering who he might be replacing the minister with. We will know more in the days to come.

The unit which was disbanded by the minister is a specialist unit to provide support and drive the QPS's capabilities to prevent, disrupt, investigate and respond to incidents involving family and domestic violence and harm to vulnerable persons. The definition of the unit on the QPS's website says—

... advocates and supports delivery of holistic, victim-centric, and trauma-informed responses to address the needs of individuals, reduce harm and make Queensland the safest state.

Where are these people supposed to go now when they are faced with this harm? What is happening? Where are people going to go? I simply do not understand. Why has the minister sat silent, doing absolutely nothing, while the sector calls out for help?

Frontline workers have come out and said that this is going to be a catastrophic failure. Frontline DV workers, the people who witness the crisis daily, have sounded the alarm about the devastating impact this reckless decision will have on victims. Their expertise and warnings have been completely ignored. It is astounding! Not only the victims but also the people who are out there trying to protect them have said that this cannot happen, and the minister has nothing to say to them. Protecting women, children, men and families fleeing domestic violence is not optional. Their protection is on the shoulders of the government and they must continue to do that. It is an absolute disgrace that the LNP minister and the government, whose job it is to protect those very people, have slashed the resources and now stand in between them getting support.

Everyone deserves a break from work, but unfortunately those people who are on the front lines did not get a break. They did not get a break when there was a cyclone over the summer break. Just to let the minister know, the Queensland government website very clearly indicates that during summer months Queensland is prone to disasters. This should not be a surprise to anyone at all. Maybe that could be included on the Queensland parliamentary calendar—I do not know—but the minister could perhaps potentially plan her leave around the disaster season, when the responsibility falls on the minister's shoulders to be there on the ground and to be with the people who need her most. That is what Queenslanders expect from their governments.

It is clear that the minister is simply not up to the job. When the DV unit was disbanded it was called 'realignment'. I say it is another word for 'cut'. When the IT system she turned on failed, she blamed anyone and everyone except for herself as minister. She should take some accountability and responsibility for her actions. It is time for her to show up and do her job. The people of Queensland have elected her to do a particular thing, which is to look out for them and govern the state and do that in her role. The Premier said before the election that that is what he expects from his ministers. It is time to show some action.

(Time expired)