



Speech By
Hon. Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (6.18 pm): I appreciate the opportunity to talk on the amended motion moved by the member for Mudgeeraba. I also thank those opposite for moving this motion because I appreciate the opportunity to talk on it. I want to correct the record, and I want to highlight some of the mistruths being spread by those opposite in this scare campaign. I acknowledge the contribution that the member for Bulimba just made. It is disappointing that when they were in government they did not fight as hard for women and children as they did for the CFMEU. They fought hard for the CFMEU—and still do.

I want to go back to 2015 to 2017. I was on the front line working in the child abuse unit when the member for Waterford was the child safety minister. Let's talk about mid-2016. Let's talk about Mason Jett Lee, whom the coroner later found was failed in every possible way by the department. Let's rewind to October 2015, when it was revealed that that minister received a brief from her department marked 'urgent'—and this was seven or eight months before Mason Jett Lee died—saying that her department was failing and young, vulnerable kids were falling through the cracks. What did that minister do at the time? Nothing. There is no record of her going to the premier or going to CBRC to get more information or to get more funding not only to help those vulnerable children in their care but also to help the workers on the front line, of which I was one. As I said, I was in the police in the child abuse unit working closely with them on the Sunshine Coast. What did the minister do? We know that two weeks after Mason Jett Lee died she went off to Splendour in the Grass but did not fight for Mason Jett Lee and the people under her care at the time. If you do not believe me, Mr Speaker, let's go to 2017.

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find that personally offensive and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. I ask that you withdraw.

Mr PURDIE: I withdraw. I was outlining the chronology.

Mr SPEAKER: No, you withdraw unreservedly.

Mr PURDIE: I withdraw, Mr Speaker. If the former minister does not like my timeline of events—

Ms Boyd: Unreservedly.

Mr PURDIE: I was just saying—

Mr SPEAKER: Is that a prop?

Mr PURDIE: I want to read from it, Mr Speaker. Let's go to the *Deaths of children and young people in Queensland* report. It shows that in 2017 if you were a child in Queensland you were more likely to be killed than a child in any other state was. The former minister might be offended by what I say but the report speaks for itself.

Let's fast-forward to 2023, when that minister was the minister for women and health and failed to provide rape kits to hospitals in Queensland. There was one case where a whistleblower came forward to say that she had been turned away from a Queensland hospital after being raped by two men because there was no rape kit. She was told, 'Go home. Don't change your clothes. Don't shower. Photograph your injuries and come back on Monday.' That is the member for Waterford's record.

That takes me to the domestic violence scare campaign they are running which I said yesterday is disgraceful. Why is it disgraceful? I am not concerned about those opposite being loose with the truth for a political attack. I am not. We know that domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault are under-reported. The only way we can improve that reporting is by giving those vulnerable people confidence in the police to come forward and report it. The member for Waterford knows that the campaign she is running is not true and it is undermining that confidence. The commissioner today even confirmed, as the assistant commissioner did at the time, that the domestic violence command has been elevated under the new Office of the Commissioner. Staff from that office who are now not in the commissioner's office are being redeployed to the front line, coupled with the 48 extra staff we have put on in stations around Queensland—DV specialists and the vulnerable persons unit—to support the front line.

The member for Waterford sat on her hands as calls for service for domestic violence increased by 200 per cent. When Commissioner Gollschewski got the job under them, one of the first things he did was sit down with the *Courier-Mail*—an extraordinary thing for the commissioner to do—to call on the government to give the police the laws, the resources and the powers they had been asking for for five years to protect women and children in domestic violence situations, and they did nothing. At the time there were up to 200 calls for service unanswered at Logan alone, 85 per cent of which were victims of domestic violence the police could not get to.

I said yesterday that the minister did nothing when she was the attorney-general other than wrap police up in red tape. Immediately when we came into power we took a different approach. We trust our police to protect women and children. We want to build confidence in the police so that people come forward and report, and we will continue to do that.