



Speech By
Hon. Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.28 pm): Mr Speaker, there you have it: the revolving door of failed Labor child safety ministers—the member for Waterford and the member for Bulimba.

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mrs GERBER: I hear you, member for Bulimba. Not only were you a failed—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Let's try again.

Mrs GERBER: I take the interjection from the member for Bulimba, who not only was a failed child safety minister but also a failed youth justice minister. She oversaw the pipeline of child safety kids into youth justice. She oversaw the pipeline of serious repeat offenders in this state, 24 per cent of whom were in the care of the state. Under that failed child safety minister and then failed youth justice minister we saw a youth crime crisis in Queensland. What did we hear from her today? They are still not supporting tough laws in this state. They are refusing to back our strong electronic monitoring laws. They are completely divided when it comes to strong laws in this state. They failed in child safety, they failed in youth justice and now they will not back statewide permanent electronic monitoring laws. She is a failed youth justice minister and a failed child safety minister who saw a pipeline of vulnerable child safety kids into youth justice. She sat by and did nothing.

We heard the member for Waterford talking about records. She was the first failed child safety minister. Let's look at some headlines: 'Child safety minister Shannon Fentiman at Splendour in the Grass.' As stated in the *Courier-Mail*, that was all while children were dying under her watch. It was revealed that she received a report that alerted of the failures. What did she do? She buried that report and Mason Jett Lee paid the consequence.

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence. I ask her to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence and asks that you withdraw.

Mrs GERBER: I withdraw. There is another headline here for the member for Waterford, the failed child safety minister who oversaw the most horrific cases of child deaths in this state. 'Child safety minister Shannon Fentiman reject calls for sacking.' She rejected calls that she be sacked at the time. What did she say? 'Our Queensland system is under pressure but it's not in crisis.' This is while children were dying under her watch. Those failed child safety ministers should not be throwing stones because they oversaw a child safety system that is in crisis and it has led us to where we are today. The member for Whitsunday is calmly and methodically going about fixing Labor's broken child safety system.

I can see the member for Waterford laughing. She thinks this is a big joke. This is all university politics for them. This is how it works. They do not care about the children in child safety who are paying the consequences of 10 years of Labor neglecting the system. They do not care about that. They do not care about the 10 years of a youth crime crisis in this state. They do not care about that. They will not vote for strong bail laws. They will not vote for electronic monitoring to be permanent in this state. The member for Waterford, the member for Bulimba, the member for Nudgee, the former member for Barron River and the member for Jordan are all failed child safety ministers in Labor's revolving door that created the system that Minister Camm is trying to fix.

Wait, there is one more thing I forgot about the member for Waterford. That is right, the reportable conduct scheme. We had an inquiry in this state that left a Reportable Conduct Scheme with the member for Waterford to implement. That would have stopped paedophiles in this state. That was in 2017. Did she implement it? Did it happen? No, it did not. They sat on it for four years. That saw the most prolific paedophile in this state able to carry out horrendous offending against children in Queensland. If the member for Waterford had acted when that report was on her desk in 2017—

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask the minister to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence and asks that you withdraw.

Mrs GERBER: I withdraw. Children may have been saved. The Minister for Child Safety is getting on with the plan of delivering Safer Children, Safer Communities—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The convention is that if the member is asked to withdraw, they do so unreservedly. The minister continued her—

Mr SPEAKER: There was that much noise in here, member, that I am not really sure. I think the Clerk may have something for me.

Mrs GERBER: For the benefit of the House, I am happy to withdraw again.

Mr SPEAKER: Unreservedly?

Mrs GERBER: Yes.

Mr SPEAKER: You have 11 seconds left.

Mrs GERBER: The child safety minister is getting on with the job of fixing Labor's failed child safety system, delivering what Queenslanders have called for. The Labor government left the system in complete disarray. We are getting on with the job of fixing Labor's failed child safety system.

(Time expired)