




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 24 March 2021

MOTION

Women

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.22 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Premier of Queensland. There is no doubt that we are at a pivotal moment not only in Queensland but across Australia—a moment which recently saw thousands of people, both men and women, march in the March 4 Justice rallies across cities and towns not only here in Queensland but across Australia and it is a moment that has touched everyone. I want to acknowledge the courage of many of our elected representatives—the members for Nanango and Whitsunday as well as other members opposite such as the members for Waterford, Redcliffe and Bulimba—who have shared stories in the public domain because that has taken a lot of courage as elected representatives to shine a light on this issue.

Many members on both sides of the House have been appalled by the stories that we have heard, and I certainly have been shocked and appalled as well particularly when we think that we all have mothers, many of us have wives or female partners, we have sisters, we have friends who are women and colleagues—I have many medical colleagues who are female as well as fellow parliamentarians—and I am the father of a daughter as well.

To think of some of the instances where people have been sexually harassed, bullied and intimidated with the stories we have heard is just truly shocking. As not only elected representatives but also particularly as men—many of us in this place are fathers—collectively as a society we need to lead cultural change and lead some of the conversations with our sons but also lead by example as elected representatives. There is a huge amount of work that needs to be done. There have also been leaders across the community—leaders from our QPS, including the commissioner to those other leaders in business, the legal profession and industry—who have shared their stories as well, and I want to acknowledge their courage.

Every single woman, regardless of background, creed, age or religious affiliation, needs to be safe in their workplace and in their community environment. It is not only a right to feel safe; they must actually feel safe. They must be safe in their homes, safe in their workplace and safe in their community as well as being free of discrimination. There is a significant body of work that needs to be undertaken with our schools, and I acknowledge the Labor Minister for Education in relation to the review that is being undertaken with sex education. Time is of the essence when it comes to the recommendations and the time lines of implementation. All school communities must work with parents, other community leaders and other school leaders to ensure that we eliminate sexual harassment, bullying and intimidation from all communities across Queensland and that women feel safe.