Speech By

Sandy Bolton

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Members of Parliament, Conduct

Ms BOLTON (Noosa—Ind) (9.25 pm): Forty-four—yes, 44—is the number of times AI says I have spoken in this chamber since 2018 on the unacceptable behaviours and system failings of our parliament. There were a further eight, plus posts, columns and media interviews. Regardless of appeals for reform, better behaviours, greater accountability and scrutiny, we saw no change. There have been lots of words, including of condolence and outrage after tragedies as well as requests to lower the temperature, but no real change. There has just been ongoing anger, disengagement and declining mental health in our communities and, horrendously, also violence.

No-one should feel fear when doing their job, whether a shop attendant, nurse, teacher, frontline worker or politician. No-one should be abused. Mothers, fathers, daughters, sons, brothers, sisters and friends are being subjected to the preventable. How did we get to this point in our homes, workplaces and country where nastiness, abuse and blame are tolerated? Common courtesy, decency, respect and kindness should be the standard and should be promoted.

As I have said before, if we as MPs in this chamber or governments cannot fix this, Queenslanders and Australians need to by holding elected representatives, political parties and our system to the highest standards and by holding each other to those standards. We all have a responsibility in this by saying, 'No more!'; by not engaging in online or in-person abuse; by treating others as you wish to be treated; by putting a line in the sand and ending relationships with those who incite or abuse; and by no longer supporting parties or candidates who incite or abuse.

Parliamentary reform is needed. Dorothy Dixers need to become obsolete. Absolute power for any government needs reassessing. Flawed sets of standing orders, protocols and a system geared to diminish scrutiny, accountability, transparency and representation need an overhaul. Enough is enough. As the Speaker said this morning, a reset is needed.

In closing, Noosa continues to send love and wishes to Dr Helen Haines MP, her family, staff and community and to all who have been senselessly injured or murdered for doing their job helping others. Our hearts are broken, but our resolve is stronger than ever. I ask all members of parliament in this House to sign a pledge to bring decency and integrity back to our chamber. That is not a lot to ask, to end what is happening in our communities.