

This letter was sent by MOS to the local MP, Tom Smith. Send your own version to Tom Smith c/- Bundaberg@parliament.qld.gov.au

Tom Smith
Queensland Government Member – Bundaberg electorate
WIN Tower
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BUNDABERG QLD 4670
Email: Bundaberg@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Smith,

We have been contacted by a parent of a student at St Luke's school expressing concerns about the cancer charity event planned for September this year. *Mothers of Sons* is a group of mothers advocating for fair treatment for both men and women, particularly in our justice system.

We have been told this fundraising event, to be attended by over 300 students, parents, and members of the community, will be addressed by guest speaker, Trish Wyatt, who has written a book titled *"Don't Report Rape."*

We are aware you attended the book launch of *"Don't Report Rape"* held on 7 January 2023 where you stated:

"I have to say I love this book, I absolutely love it. I love it because it is raw. I love it because it is honest."

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=1362182674598005 mins 29:30-39:52)

In that context, we note that the man she accused of violent sexual assault was found by a jury last year, after only 30 minutes of deliberation, NOT GUILTY on all charges in the Queensland District Court.

Our concern is that you are supporting a woman who, despite this decision, appears to be intent on undermining the justice system and misleading the public about the effectiveness of our juries.

After being presented with the facts of the case, the jury didn't believe beyond reasonable doubt Wyatt's extraordinary story that she's a victim of an "extremely violent and life-threatening" sexual assault taking place over an eight-hour period, which allegedly included attempted strangulation and all manner of extreme sexual behaviour.

Wyatt's book makes the flawed, scientifically unsupported argument that the major reason why the jury was unconvinced by her story was they weren't "trauma-informed" and hence didn't realise that behaviour that made her appear less credible or reliable was actually proof that she was traumatised by the rape. Behaviour like:

- Making no attempt to leave the unlocked motel room over an 8-hour period, even though the police station was only two minutes down the road.

- Having a shower in the motel room before she left the next morning and kissing her sleeping assailant goodbye before exiting the room. Wyatt claims this trauma-informed “fawn” response aims at keeping the perpetrator on side to avoid more violence.
- Sending a text message to another man she’d been chatting to online saying “Hey, Handsome xxx” the day after the alleged rape.
- Continuing to go out and meet men after the alleged assault. She met her current partner 20 days after the event.
- Stating to the police four days after the event, that she was “not even sure a crime had been committed.”

She also claims she was “slut-shamed” and “victim-blamed” in court due to the defence revealing that she’d had sex with another man the night before, that she’d agreed to have this first date in a motel room because she was “100% after casual sex”, and she arrived with 2 bottles of wine and 4 rum/coke mixed drinks plus ended up sharing the man’s marijuana.

It is most inappropriate for a member of parliament to support a woman who claims the jury’s decision not to believe her story after being confronted with all this evidence is proof that our justice system simply doesn’t work. “Our justice system is so flawed and so broken that it provides a legal loophole or get out of jail free card for rapists,” Wyatt claims.

Wyatt’s criticisms of the justice system are based on ideology and misinformation rather than proper research and science. In claiming jurors are influenced by rape myths she ignores the definitive 2019 [research](#) on real juries by UCL law professor Cheryl Thomas, showing most jurors are quite capable of proper judgements about guilt or innocence in rape cases. Similarly her book includes none of the evidence challenging the notion of “trauma-informed” practice – see the *Centre for Prosecutor Integrity* [report](#) on “trauma-informed junk science”.

In addition, we believe many in your community would question whether Trish Wyatt’s behaviour really presents an admirable role model, particularly as her very explicit book presents her adventurous sexual history in great detail.

We suggest you reconsider your support for Wyatt and are writing to St Luke’s school suggesting it is more appropriate to invite a speaker who is not only a good role model for students, but someone who has been impacted by cancer, the core theme of the event.

Respectfully,

Mothers of Sons

contact@mothersofsons.info

10/05/2023