

A strong voice for our future

BRITTANY LAUGA MP

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**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL
AND ASSISTANT MINISTER
FOR EDUCATION**



MEDIA RELEASE

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Lauga backs tougher revenge porn penalties

A personal experience of image-based sexual abuse has bolstered a drive by the Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister Brittany Lauga to strongly back stronger sentencing for perpetrators of sexting and revenge porn.

Mrs Lauga told Queensland Parliament she supported the Criminal Code (Non-consensual Sharing of Intimate Images) Amendment Bill 2018 and told of her personal experience of a secret camera installed in the toilet at her former workplace.

“I am pleased the maximum penalty for non-consensual filming and photographs is being increased from two years imprisonment to three years to bring the penalty in line with other states.

“I am particularly pleased with respect to this because I have been the victim of image-based sexual abuse.

“At a workplace before I was elected to parliament we found a hidden camera in a staff toilet recording men and women.

“We never found the culprit, but the impact on all staff was substantial.

“We do not know if the video recording was ever shared with anyone, but it is good to know the retrospective provisions of this Bill would mean that, if it ever was discovered that the recordings were shared, the perpetrator could be convicted,” she said.

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Mrs Lauga warned those using social media that “a little bit of fun can turn into shame, depression, significant financial loss and even suicide”.

“Sometimes things can go wrong. Sexts might get sent to the wrong person or shared with someone who proves not to be trustworthy later on, or they may be shared with friends or posted online to try to hurt or embarrass someone.”

She said research shows:

- Nearly one in three children between 14 and 17 years had experiences with sexting during 2016-17;
- One in five aged 16 to 40 years —almost 23%—reported experiencing at least one form of image-based sexual abuse or revenge porn;
- 10.6% of respondents had nude or sexual images sent on to others or distributed without consent
- 8.6% of respondents experienced threats that a nude or sexual image would be sent on to others or distributed without consent

Mrs Lauga said the most common types of image-based sexual abuse reported were nude or sexual images being taken without the respondent's consent—just over 20 per cent of respondents — a crime under the Criminal Code.

Mrs Lauga said revenge porn and sextortion have significant social, financial, physical and psychological impacts.

She called for ongoing education to warn young people about the risks.

“I urge all parents to have the conversation with their sons and daughters about porn, sharing pictures and rights to privacy and consent,” said Mrs Lauga.

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