reduce somebody to tears/silence etc

to make someone cry, be silent etc

***Emerson and Dutton discuss the week's events:***

**And this is the Bruce Hawker model: if you don't have good policies to talk about, if you haven't got a**

**good track record to talk about, then what you do is attack the personality of the leader of the Coalition.**

**That is exactly what they did in a very personal way, for Campbell Newman and his parents-in-law. It reduced his wife to tears.**