



Speech by

Mr ALLAN GRICE, OAM

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Hansard 16 September 1998

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
Anti-drug Initiative; Schoolies Week

Mr GRICE (Broadwater—NPA) (10.05 a.m.), by leave: Yesterday the Minister for Police and Corrective Services made outrageous allegations that I had somehow jeopardised a comprehensive campaign to combat drugs on the Gold Coast in the lead-up to Schoolies Week. The Minister suggested that I had launched my own "dob in a druggie" hotline one day before Crimestoppers was to announce its hotline of a different number. The Minister alleged that I had jeopardised police operations and he proceeded to quote from a press release issued by David Muir, the former chair of Crimestoppers, which he tabled. That press release claimed that the telephone hotline that I was part of announcing undermined the Crimestoppers program.

This morning, I spoke to David Muir and he advised me that he withdrew that press release on the same day that it was issued, 9 September. He did so because it was factually incorrect. He did so because the number I announced was an existing line set up by the police to report suspected criminal activity. I announced the line jointly with Detective Inspector Richard Nikola and with the full support of the Gold Coast's six chambers of commerce and the mayor. I stress again that it was launched with the detective inspector—and I table that for the information of the House—and was an existing phone line.

I further stress that the press release issued by David Muir, which the Minister quoted from, was withdrawn. I trust the Minister will correct himself and remove himself from any attempts to try to politicise the fight against drug trafficking and drug use. Finally, any reasonable person should be prepared to accept any genuine offer to help in the fight against those who are prepared to be accessories to the death of our young.
