



Speech by

BILL FELDMAN

MEMBER FOR CABOOLTURE

Hansard 21 October 1998

EMPLOYER, LONGREACH SHEEP AND CATTLE PROPERTY

Mr FELDMAN (Caboolture—ONP) (Leader of the One Nation Party) (10.08 a.m.): Today I rise on behalf of a constituent from Caboolture to personally thank the honourable member for Gregory and the Longreach police for the service and assistance that they gave to a 16-year-old youth from Caboolture and two other youths from Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast on Friday, 9 October 1998—and I do so most sincerely.

After securing a job on a Longreach sheep and cattle property, these youths discovered that life had dealt them another hard knock. Their employer was not all that his advertisement in the Courier-Mail and their subsequent interviews in Brisbane had depicted him to be. These self-motivated youths who sought out what they perceived to be a legitimate job had been led down the garden path and had placed their personal safety at risk, being isolated on this property outside Longreach. Sub judice prevents me from naming these youths or the property owner at this stage, as proceedings have been instigated in respect of a complaint of indecently dealing with one of these youths.

In light of the findings of the Kimmins report, the parents of this youth from Caboolture felt comfortable about sending their child off to this remote area. When I discovered from another source uncomfortable information in respect of this employer and then attempted to verify the validity of my concerns with the Minister for Police and Corrective Services, I was not provided with any information and had to seek verification from a local source at Longreach. This occurred on 9 October 1998, and I am still awaiting a response in relation to my concerns from the Minister for Police and Corrective Services. In light of what had occurred and the danger posed to these young males, my constituent and I do not believe the Minister has responded and reacted appropriately and reasonably under the circumstances, when only a standard response was received in relation to my allegations. No information at all in relation to this employer was given to me.

Time expired.
