



Speech by

**PETER WELLINGTON**

**MEMBER FOR NICKLIN**

---

Hansard 15 September 1998

### **POLITICIANS' SUPERANNUATION ENTITLEMENTS**

**Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—IND) (10.14 a.m.): Mr Speaker, I seek your indulgence to speak about politicians' superannuation entitlements and in particular the publicly funded component. I believe that politicians who are convicted of crimes for which a person is liable to imprisonment for seven years or more should lose the publicly funded component of their superannuation.

Under my proposal, if a politician is convicted of a crime he or she would receive only the money that he or she has contributed to the State Government superannuation scheme plus reasonable interest on that component. I do this because I believe that politicians should lead by example. They are the elected leaders of the people and, as such, must be people of honesty and integrity.

I also sincerely believe that the taxpayers of Queensland should not be expected to pay generous superannuation benefits to politicians who clearly have disgraced their positions and let down the people who elected them to office. Currently, I am investigating this matter, which requires the support of the Commonwealth Government and expert legal input. Accordingly, I now refer this matter to the Select Committee on Parliamentary Entitlements for its determination.

Put very simply, politicians who have skeletons in their cupboards will have to weigh up the options of either continuing with their parliamentary careers and taking the chance of being found out or losing their generous taxpayer-funded superannuation benefits. The present situation is that the only offence upon which the publicly funded component of a politician's Government funded superannuation can be challenged is in relation to corruption.

I will be seeking the support of my parliamentary colleagues in this matter. I am sure that, like me, they would be reluctant to support any politician who is convicted of a serious crime gaining generous taxpayer-funded superannuation benefits. I now table the letter to be referred to the Select Committee on Parliamentary Entitlements.

---