



Speech by

GRANT MUSGROVE

MEMBER FOR SPRINGWOOD

Hansard 15 September 1998

CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY

Mr MUSGROVE (Springwood—ALP) (10.21 a.m.): The Government is determined to get tough on the causes of crime. Alcohol and drug abuse, child abuse, unemployment and poverty all lead to an increase in crime. It is time we moved far beyond the short-term thinking of the previous Government and the member for Crows Nest. This is where the Labor Government's \$35m Crime Prevention Strategy comes into play. We have put into place the responsible and coordinated anti-crime strategy that we promised at the 13 June election.

We promised to improve policing practices with an extra 10 police beats and an extra 10 police shopfronts. Only last Friday we expanded those police beats to 12. Police beats and shopfronts are two of the best ways I know to have a real impact on crime levels and people's fears. Past public perception surveys have shown clear drops in both crime and the fear of crime where police beats and shopfronts have been ideally located within the community. They have proved successful since they were introduced under Labor in 1992 and that is why the Beattie Labor Government is determined to expand this program. We promise to combat violence against women, to set up meaningful drug and alcohol strategies and to assist organisations which look after the victims of crime.

The Crime Prevention Strategy provides \$4m to reduce alcohol and drug-related crime and an additional \$1m to victims of crime associations, \$5.5m towards strategies to prevent violence towards women and \$5m for improved policing practices. On top of this, \$15m will be provided to the Urban Renewal Program, \$3m for early intervention programs, \$1m for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Grants Scheme funds and \$500,000 for the administration of the task force itself.

We have set aside \$35m for this Crime Prevention Strategy. This year we have also set aside an extra \$12m for the Urban Renewal Program, making a total of \$47m. This Beattie Labor Government means business in all these areas. Just a few weeks ago, Cabinet approved the establishment—

Time expired.
