



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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Hansard 16 September 1998

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT Crime Prevention Task Force

**Hon. P. D. BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.34 a.m.), by leave: This Government is demonstrating that it is tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime. A high-powered crime prevention task force under my personal supervision will drive a \$47m Crime Prevention Strategy. As a community, crime costs us more than \$2 billion a year and a lot of hurt, anguish, heartbreak and misery. That is why this task force has been established. It will work closely with the relevant Ministers and police.

Crime prevention is far better than trying to deal with the damaging effects of crime. It is far better to prevent cancer than to try to cut it out after it has developed. We will provide an extra 317 police this year, with an extra 10 police shopfronts and an extra 10 police beats, some of which the Minister for Police has already announced. We promised juvenile crime prevention and early intervention programs. We will be spending \$3m a year on the positive parenting program. We promised to combat violence against women, to set up meaningful drug and alcohol strategies and to assist organisations that look after victims of crime. We have provided \$4m to reduce alcohol and drug related crime and an extra \$1m to victims' associations.

We had set aside \$35m for this Crime Prevention Strategy. We have now set aside an extra \$12m for the Urban Renewal Program. This will make a total of \$47m.

The task force will include nine other departments, the Criminal Justice Commission, the Victims of Crime Association and youth and business community representatives. Only directors-general or deputy directors-general will sit on the task force which will report to Cabinet on progress every six months.

This year alone the Government will spend \$27m on our Urban Renewal Program, which aims to improve lifestyle and neighbourhood pride and slash the crime rate in problem areas across the State. At Riverview, near Ipswich, calls to police dropped by an astonishing 60% after the Labor Government introduced an urban renewal program. This is part of our strategy about being tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime.

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