Speech by

Mr ALLAN GRICE, OAM

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

GOLD COAST DRUG PROBLEM

Mr GRICE (Broadwater—NPA) (7.09 p.m.): Today, I again want to talk about the drug problem on the Gold Coast. This Government is not offering enough resources to fight this major, major problem. I am not going to denigrate the Police Service, the CJC, the National Crime Authority, the Federal Police, the undercover operations or the Crime Commissioner. They are all doing the best they can. However, it is a fact that on the Gold Coast people can still buy drugs in the clubs, in the schools and in the hotels. With the right telephone numbers, people can buy drugs anywhere. Whatever it is that we are doing, it is not good enough. The organisations—and there are plenty of them that help drug addicts try to get off drugs—are doing the very best they can, but it is not enough. If we are going to have any chance of getting on top of this problem, we need a major initiative, an all-of-Government initiative. Young people are still dying on the Gold Coast, in Brisbane, in Cairns and in other places—this problem is not just confined to the Gold Coast. However, the Premier is the leader of the Government and is ultimately responsible for the direction of the Government. We have a Premier who preens himself and comes in here and pontificates and pouts for the camera about all sorts of nefarious little things such as the wonderful 48 minutes he spent answering questions in front of the press gallery, yet kids are dying.

It is the responsibility of the Government, just as if the coalition were in Government it would be our responsibility—I am not saying that it is a Labor/conservative thing—but not enough resources are being applied by this Government to help stop our young dying, to stop our young having to be resuscitated in our hospitals and to stop having to have ambulance officers bringing kids back to life on the footpaths outside night clubs. I appeal to this Government to apply more resources to fight this horrible problem.

Time expired.

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