



Speech by

JACK PAFF

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST

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CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND PENALTIES AND SENTENCES AMENDMENT BILL

Mr PAFF (Ipswich West—ONP) (10.04 p.m.): It was with great interest that I listened to the member for Warwick's second-reading speech. I did so as this Bill introduces an issue that is quite close to everyone. One Nation has always believed in getting tough on crime and 100% truth in sentencing is one of the ways in which we wanted to go about achieving this. The member's speech had me hopeful that the coalition is also responding to community demand and introducing, albeit for serious violent criminals only, truth in sentencing. I was pleased that the coalition fulfilled their election promise by adopting a tough stance on crime, although I was disappointed to discover that their Bill caps the truth in sentencing at 15 years. In our belief, it should not be capped at all and truth in sentencing should be 100%. However, we understand the enormity of creating such legislation and support the coalition's efforts in strengthening the Corrective Services and Penalties and Sentences Acts.

I agree with all of the comments of the member for Warwick, the unarguable fact that ordinary, decent, law-abiding Queenslanders deserve the protection that 100% truth in sentencing provides and that, undoubtedly, these offenders deserve to serve their entire sentence. I would like to take this even further and suggest that 100% truth in sentencing will act as a deterrent to crime and that it is the only system of sentencing which, in fact, makes sense. Why on earth sentence someone to 20 years in jail if the intent is that the criminal will serve only 13 years or 15 years? It is only sensible and logical to sentence someone to a specific term of imprisonment and for that person to serve exactly that term: 100% truth in sentencing is plain commonsense.

As I said earlier, I was elated at the coalition's introduction of this policy—a policy which is not only One Nation policy but also one that we in One Nation support completely. People who commit these violent offences against our families and friends do not deserve to be let off lightly. The victims are too often victimised again due to the leniency of the sentence and the leniency of the punishment. That is another area where there is room for improvement. We need to bring back some justice to society: start making people accountable and aware of the consequences of their actions. All criminals should not get off scot-free with deals of home detention, parole and leaves of absence because their mummies might miss them and they might get upset.

Members of this House are supposed to be representatives of the people. I do not think that I need to speak for long on this issue. It should be quite clear to everyone who spends time among the people that truth in sentencing is not only what the public want but also what they deserve.

I draw to the attention of the House the fact that today I presented to the Clerk of the Parliament a petition containing 6,665 signatures, gathered from all over Queensland, for truth in sentencing. People deserve to feel safe on the streets and they need to feel secure that justice has been done. Truth in sentencing is necessary in the fight against crime. All members of this House are aware of the necessity for a tougher stance on crime. This Bill is another step in that direction and it should be supported on behalf of all honest, law-abiding citizens of this State. They deserve nothing less.
