



Speech by

Mr LEN STEPHAN

MEMBER FOR GYMPIE

Hansard 10 March 1999

CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND PENALTIES AND SENTENCES AMENDMENT BILL

Mr STEPHAN (Gympie—NPA) (10.56 p.m.): It gives me a great deal of pleasure to take part in this debate. As has been mentioned before tonight: commit the crime, and you also do the time. That is one message that we can certainly convey to the community itself. For that reason, I am very pleased about the number of police who are being made available to schools, because it would be a big plus if we could get that message out to our young people through those school-based police. Not only can those police relate to the students themselves, but they can perhaps get a handle on the so-called difficult students before they get into trouble.

I am sure that all members would realise how easily young people can get into trouble. They can also be good actors, not only when they are at school but also in their adult life. I recall very vividly one fellow who was incarcerated in a prison. It supposedly did not take him very long to realise that he was a new man. In one of his letters to me, he said how beautiful the trees are, how God is in the heavens, and how he had suddenly become a different person. I would like to think that he continued to feel that way for a long time. Unfortunately, when he was released, he went back to taking joy-rides and stealing whatever was not nailed down. I am sure that all members can relate to people of that particular ilk; there are a lot of them about, and we should ensure that we help them, if at all possible, but sometimes that is not the case.
