



Speech by

DESLEY SCOTT

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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DRUG STRATEGY

Mrs DESLEY SCOTT (Woodridge—ALP) (6.51 p.m.): I wish to commend our government for its commitment to our youth, and in particular to what will be a comprehensive whole-of-government approach to developing drug policy. Many of these initiatives will have a very positive effect on my electorate. I have listened to the outpouring of parents, distraught that their child or children have become caught up in the drug scene and of grandmothers and grandfathers suddenly back to raising a young family again of perhaps three or four children because their daughter is too drug affected to care for her children. These are heartbreaking stories and we hear them all too often.

Last week, I spoke at a police community consultative meeting. In the question time following, I heard questions relating to the serious matter of paint sniffing, or chroming, as it is known. Three groups have now formed in Logan City to discuss and talk through strategies to arrest this problem. They will now combine their efforts, and I will welcome discussions with them.

Embodied in these seven strategies for action is a comprehensive education program. I have a very passionate interest in seeing the availability of the Triple P program greatly increased in my electorate. Having young parents educated to form meaningful, close relationships with their children from a young age is imperative. The family care nurse providing home visitation is also another element that will play a major role in this initiative. I am also very happy to see the number of school-based youth health nurses increased across the state. I have been pleased to see the Beenleigh court, which serves my electorate, has been one of the courts selected for the drug courts trial. I believe there are many elements of this program, such as the rehabilitation imperative, which will be welcomed by our community and, in particular, parents.

Over the years, many a time I have listened to the impassioned plea of parents who have found nowhere suitable for the rehabilitation of their youngsters. The drug scene is an obscene scourge on our society. We need to reclaim our youth, and I believe that these measures will make a difference.

I have the greatest respect for the police in my district, particularly the senior officers. They are men and women who really care about our kids, and I believe that they will be involved in a more intensive way to see drug dealers taken out of our society. I am personally acquainted with Mr Bruce Kiehne, who has invented a cheap, simple, retractable needle. He is a long-term resident in Logan City. I believe these will be an added safety measure.

I give these strategies my support and believe all parents who have drug-affected kids and the many who fear their kids being preyed upon will welcome this amended motion. To the community members who suffer the effects of drugs by home break-ins and theft, to see a reduction in the number of users in society—they will also applaud these measures.
