



Speech by

PHIL REEVES

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Hansard 13 September 2001

KIDS HELP LINE

Mr REEVES (Mansfield—ALP) (10.23 a.m.): It has taken 35 years but my bad ways have finally caught up with me. I wish to inform the House that I will be spending next Wednesday, 19 September locked up in jail. I have been presented with a penalty notice that summonses me to appear before a specially convened jury. If I am found guilty, which is apparently 100 per cent likely, I will be sentenced to one hour's imprisonment and forced to raise bail from my jail cell to secure my freedom. To top it all off, my jail cell will be located in the middle of Garden City Town Square in my electorate.

The bail money I will raise will be given to the promoters of the event, Kids Help Line. Kids Help Line will be staging another of their highly successful lockups in my electorate next week.

Mr Mackenroth interjected.

Mr REEVES: The Deputy Premier is probably right.

The lockup involves high-profile people agreeing to be jailed for an hour in a public place and then having to raise a set amount of bail to be released. I look forward greatly to next week's event, falling as it does on my 35th birthday. I could not think of anything I would rather be doing on my birthday. It is very close to the busway station, too. But seriously, I am pleased to have been asked to attend this event and sincerely hope to raise as much money as possible for such a worthy cause. I will pass the pledge sheet around today to gain some assistance from my fellow members to get out of jail or, as the Deputy Premier says, to stay in there.

For every \$1,000 raised, Kids Help Line can answer 120 extra phone calls. Currently, an average of 8,000 to 9,000 calls per week are answered by paid professionals at Kids Help Line. Kids Help Line offers Australia's only free, 24-hour, anonymous counselling service. Last year's lockup raised enough funds to answer an extra 5,500 calls. This year they are aiming for the figure of 10,000. I commend Kids Help Line and their lockup fundraiser to the House and encourage all members to assist in any way they can—financially would be a good start.
