



Speech by

**Hon. T. McGRADY**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA**

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Hansard 8 November 2001

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Mr W. T. D'Arcy**

**Hon. T. McGRADY** (Mount Isa—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province) (9.56 a.m.), by leave: I wish to clarify for the House the details with regard to this morning's *Courier-Mail* article concerning Mr Bill D'Arcy, who is currently serving a sentence in Wolston Correctional Centre. May I make it clear from the start that, as minister, I completely condemn any illegal activity occurring within our prison system. As a government we are striving to introduce stringent measures to ensure the corrective services system operates in a safe and efficient manner.

With regard to Mr D'Arcy, allegations have been raised that he was paying protection money to another prisoner in Wolston Correctional Centre. 'Allegation' is the operative word here. The Department of Corrective Services intelligence units inform me there is no evidence to back up the allegation of the payment of protection money by Mr D'Arcy. No evidence has been delivered. However, if evidence is brought to light, naturally we will investigate it to the fullest extent and take necessary action. But the fact is that, aside from unsubstantiated allegations from unnamed 'prison sources' in the newspaper, no hard evidence has been delivered.

Mr D'Arcy is afforded the same level of protection as other offenders serving time for similar crimes. He is a protected prisoner in the same way as other high-profile former political figures have been. Mr D'Arcy is afforded the same level of protection as was given to Mr Don Lane, Mr Brian Austin, Mrs Leisha Harvey and Mr Terrence Lewis. All successfully completed sentences.

If anyone, journalist or 'prison source', does have any evidence to substantiate these claims, I would appeal to them to come forward to the CJC, the Department of Corrective Services or myself. It is their duty to do so in the interests of the corrective services system. If they have proof, I would strongly urge them to disclose what they know. They have a duty to come forward. These are serious allegations. If these people really care about the justice system in Queensland, they should feel honour bound to come forward to the CJC or myself with these allegations, and not just air them in the media.

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