



Speech by

Dr DAVID WATSON

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Hansard 10 April 2002

CRIME STATISTICS

Dr WATSON (Moggill—Lib) (6.32 p.m.): I enter the debate to support the motion moved by the member for Robina and seconded by the member for Caloundra. In doing so, I cannot help but comment on what the minister and previous members of the government have said. The minister has moved an amendment which states in part—

... the community should be able to access data on crime rates in their local areas ...

We agree with that precisely, because that is what the motion of the member for Robina states. The local community ought to be able to gain access to local crime data. That is what it is about. The second part of the first paragraph of the minister's amendment states—

... notes that the Queensland Police Service Annual Statistical Review is a mechanism already established for this purpose.

That is wrong. The information requested by the member for Robina in his motion is not available in the statistical review. Members ought to have a look at it. If it is available, then the government should tell the member for Greenslopes. In December last year he asked a question specifically on this issue. He asked a question about the divisions of Coorparoo, Camp Hill and Holland Park. He wanted information about the trends. Guess what? In December 2001 the information was provided. There was no question about the information being impossible to get and no suggestion that providing an answer would take substantial police resources out of the areas of Camp Hill and Coorparoo and into administrative duties. The minister did not say that then. The minister provided the information.

Let us look at what the minister provided in the answer. The answer states at the bottom, 'Statistical Services, Information Resource Centre'. The police have it all set up. All we have to do to see that is look at this answer. It is a print-out of what is in the database. Providing those individual station figures requires no effort whatsoever on the part of the Police Service.

What the minister and the members for Redlands and Mount Ommaney said is simply nonsense. Their argument is completely refuted by the minister's answer to the member for Greenslopes in December 2001. If their argument is right, why did the member for Greenslopes have to ask the question? He is a member of the government, yet he had to ask the question. The government is condemned by its own members because the minister provided for them precisely what the member for Robina has requested in this particular motion.

Some of the information is simply incomparable. For example, part of the question asked by the member for Robina earlier related to the statistical division of Indooroopilly. I can tell members that we cannot compare the annual report of 1999-2000 with that of 2000-01. The reason is that the boundaries were changed. Even if we wanted to believe what the minister said, which was totally wrong, we cannot do any comparison. No-one can tell what has happened within the Indooroopilly statistical district because the boundaries have been changed and no valid comparisons can be made.

The members for Mount Ommaney and Redlands talked about the Smart State and the use of information technology in the Smart State. If the government wants to make us the Smart State, all it has to do is give access to members of parliament via the Internet—

Mr Nuttall: 'www dot'.

Dr WATSON: I take the interjection of the Minister for Industrial Relations. If the government wants us to use technology, it should give us access to this database. The information is right there.

The police database has all of the information. If the government is worried about the use of police resources, it can simply make the information available to members of parliament over the Internet. Those opposite are bragging about it and they have a very simple solution. The government can give access to the database. Then there will be no problems.

The government's arguments are completely flawed. First, the information is available. Second, it is regularly collected by the police. Third, the government makes it available to some members of the parliament and not others. Fourth, if the government wants to use technology it should use it appropriately. It should give access directly to the database—

Time expired.