



Speech by

Mike Horan

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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HOME INVASIONS; STUDENT NURSES

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (6.33 p.m.): Tonight I will talk about two things. One outrages and saddens me and one gives me great hope in my heart for the young people of our state. First I speak about the attack on an elderly woman in her home. Her home was broken into and she was attacked. This woman rang me up very distressed and asked, 'Can you do something about it in parliament?' I am bringing it up because I think we have to continue to look at this matter seriously.

This 66-year-old woman and her husband have been married for a long time. They have lived in their house, which is fairly handy to the CBD. They liked living there because of its convenience. Since the attack—she was bashed and had to go to the Toowoomba Base Hospital—she and her husband have decided to sell up and move out. They cannot stay there any longer. It is just awful to think of good people suffering like that. I think that we as members of parliament have to listen to what people are telling us. This woman has asked me what we can do about it. Bringing the matter up in parliament is the first step.

I know that we on this side of the House have previously talked about mandatory sentencing for people who enter houses and particularly those who bash people. I think it is about time we started to look at this constructively. I intend to continue on with this matter for some time to see if we can get some help for people and try to prevent this dreadful crime of invading houses, particularly those of the elderly, stealing purses or handbags, bashing the home's occupants, putting them in hospital and ruining the rest of their lives.

I also want to speak about the *Chronicle* volunteer awards and two wonderful young women I met at the recent award announcement at Westpac in Toowoomba. These two young women are third-year USQ nursing students—Anna Lyons and Leona Glanville. They have done some prac work at Lifeline, for some two weeks in community primary health care. In a first for Australian nursing students, on 2 November these nursing students are going to Uganda for five weeks to undertake practical training. They will be nursing in a teaching hospital in rural Uganda, at a place called Kiwoko. They expect to rotate through the hospital to cover all aspects of surgical, paediatrics, maternity, and so on. They will also be going into the village to conduct immunisation clinics. They have self-funded this trip. They will be the first Australian student nurses to travel to Uganda for their prac work within their nursing course at the University of Southern Queensland. I send them great congratulations. They are a great example of the generosity and commitment of the young people of our state. What a wonderful shining example they are. If we could have more young people like this, I am sure that our communities would be all the richer for it. Their generosity of spirit in going to Uganda, at some risk and at their own expense, to help the people of Uganda is to be greatly commended.