



Speech by

# Hon. Mike Reynolds

**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

Hansard Tuesday, 18 May 2004

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Child Abuse, Nundah Case

**Hon. M.F. REYNOLDS** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety) (10.00 a.m.): All Queenslanders would be very concerned about the severe assault of a three-month-old child which has been reported in the media over the last 24 hours. As Minister for Child Safety, I believe the perpetrators of these types of crimes should be subject to the full force of the law. People need to understand that if they harm children there will be severe consequences. As minister, I am keeping a very close and personal watch on the events surrounding this incident. I have requested regular updates on the progress of the child.

Harm to any child is a cause of tremendous concern to the government and the Queensland community, and I know our hearts go out to this child as she suffers from senseless child abuse. Child abuse is a whole-of-government and whole-of-community concern, and everyone needs to be vigilant in protecting the young and defenceless members of our society. All decision making by the Department of Child Safety and the SCAN team with regard to this incident will be subject to review in accordance with our established review policies. Infant abuse is often a very complex matter, and it would be very unfair to make premature assumptions in any case. I can assure the House that improvements to the child protection system are being made as fast as humanly possible to ensure that Queensland will have a strong and robust system protecting vulnerable children in Queensland.