



Speech by

Liz Cunningham

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Hansard Thursday, 18 October 2007

SEX OFFENDERS

Mrs CUNNINGHAM (Gladstone—Ind) (7.17 pm): I rise to put on the record the concerns of victims of violent and violating crimes. As an example of what they have to put up with, I want to refer to a vile creature called Trevor Lewis Toms. Toms spent 22 years in jail after violently raping three women. Each time he was under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Prior to his release in October 2006, the former Attorney-General, Linda Lavarch, sought an order under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act from the Supreme Court to have Toms detained past the finish of his sentence or to be supervised on his release. He was not detained past his sentence and he had supervision orders placed against him. Twice, however, he has breached those supervision orders—the first time two months after his release in October 2006.

The initial supervision orders did not contain a requirement that he not contact the victims, the victims' families, their children or anyone else. These people live in fear of being confronted by this oxygen thief. The recommendations were made that he not be placed in housing which would be shared with other sexual offenders. However, that is exactly where he is going back to. Mr Mumford also revealed that a lack of suitable alternatives meant that Toms would likely be returned to the Wacol accommodation, admitting that he would be free to mix with other sexual offenders on similar orders, and psychiatric reports indicated that that is a situation that should be avoided.

The orders that have just been confirmed against Toms at least state that he should not be able to contact in any way, shape or form the victim, the victim's families or any of their close relatives. But I do not think that that is any comfort to those families. I would seek the police minister's review of the court's conditions of release so that Toms can be banned from certain areas of the state—banned from towns in which those victims live or from areas where the victims visit regularly. Why should they be continually traumatised and worried because this mongrel has been allowed to get out of jail with insufficient constraints put on his activities? These victims are being traumatised again.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr English): Order! I caution the member for Gladstone that, given those orders were made by a court, you are reflecting on the integrity of the court, which is not allowed under parliamentary practice. I will ask you to desist from that line.

Mrs CUNNINGHAM: Mr Deputy Speaker, I appreciate your warning. These victims deserve consideration. They deserve to be remembered as the victims, not the perpetrators.