



Speech by

**Mark Ryan**

**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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## **YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES**

**Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (12.19 pm): Youth justice services around Queensland are supporting young people, building partnerships in local communities and reducing the incidence of juvenile crime. Mr Deputy Speaker, you may know that the rate of juvenile crime in 2001 was around nine offences per 100 young people. That rate has now dropped to around eight offences per 100 young people. This is a significant drop and reflects to some extent the constructive work by the government's youth justice strategies.

Youth justice services are facilitated by the Department of Communities and a number of service centres are located throughout Queensland. In the Morayfield state electorate, the Caboolture Youth Justice Service is helping young people stay on the right side of the law. In particular, a number of innovative strategies are being supported by the service. These strategies include youth justice conferencing; a youth-at-risk network; a second chance flexi school; a Murri court; and partnerships with the Indigenous, Samoan and Pan Pacific communities.

Youth justice conferencing is about bringing people together who are affected by a crime committed by a young person. The conference not only holds the young person accountable for their actions but also provides an opportunity for the young person to take responsibility for their actions and make reparations to people affected. People affected by the young person's behaviour are included in and empowered by this process as those people have an active role in how the young person may make amends for their behaviour. Figures show that youth justice conferencing actively discourages further offending by the young person and thereby protects the community.

I commend the government on its commitment to a strong and robust youth justice system because ultimately youth justice services, like the Caboolture Youth Justice Service, are helping to make Queensland a safer place by supporting young people, requiring young people to take responsibility for their actions and empowering people affected by a young person's behaviour.