



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard Wednesday, 24 February 2010

SCHOOL SAFETY

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.35 am): Today I rise to speak to the growing concern of violence in our schools. This is something that the LNP takes extremely serious and, as I have said previously, it is something that we believe should be addressed in a bipartisan way. Yesterday in this House, the Premier stood up to grandstand on the issue of school violence, but instead of taking action she chose to do nothing. Last week, I offered to work with the government on ways in which we can reduce violence in our schools. Sadly, that offer was turned down. Yesterday we saw nothing more than another exercise in spin.

In 2006, the Youth Violence Task Force was set up to address very similar issues as those to be addressed by the Queensland Schools Alliance Against Violence announced by the Premier yesterday. I ask the Premier: what has happened to the Youth Violence Task Force and what has happened to the 16 recommendations it handed down in 2007 to tackle youth violence? In the 52nd Parliament I introduced into this House a private member's bill to limit the supply of alcohol to minors. Even though the Youth Violence Task Force supported the purpose of my bill, the government voted it down only to come back into the House a year later and introduce it as its own bill.

That is why today, as part of a plan to address violence in our schools, I table a copy of a consultation draft of a bill to amend the Criminal Code to introduce a series of offences relating to acts of violence on school grounds. The draft bill also seeks comment on a new offence that would seek to prevent violent fight clubs being conducted on school grounds. According to police statistics, there were 2,498 assaults reported on educational facilities between 2006 and 2009. Educational facilities had some of the highest recorded number of assaults in any institutional setting.

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Protecting School Students and Members of Staff from Assaults) Amendment Bill 2010, consultation draft [\[1769\]](#).

As I have said, this bill seeks to address this violent trend by affording legislative protection to students and teachers from persons who assault and intimidate others whilst on school grounds. People who enter school grounds and assault others must be held responsible for their actions. Victims of such violence should also have the full protection of the law. Let us put aside politics for the sake of our children's safety.