



Speech by

**Jarrold Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

Hansard Thursday, 27 October 2011

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## JUVENILE JUSTICE

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.47 pm): Labor's record on juvenile justice is abysmal. The state's juvenile justice system is nothing more than a revolving door of young criminals.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Yes, I have, member for Brisbane Central; three weeks ago in the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre. A recent *Courier-Mail* article published last Saturday revealed that Queensland taxpayers are paying \$100,000 for a juvenile justice system that is broken and ineffective. What else would we expect from a long-term Labor government that is all talk and no action?

In a desperate attempt to tackle this issue, the Minister for Community Services rocked into parliament this morning and announced a blitz—a blitz of 200 of the state's most hardened youth offenders. What has the government been doing for 20 years?

**Ms Bates:** Nothing—absolutely nothing!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Absolutely nothing on this issue. Queenslanders have every right to be frustrated after reports earlier this week indicated that, on average, 139 children, some as young as 10, were being held in our state's detention centres. Labor's soft approach to addressing this issue has not only failed the offending children but also the wider community. We believe that these offenders must be rehabilitated during their time in custody and mentored when they are released—something that I have been saying for months. So when the minister rocked in here this morning and announced this blitz, it was no news to me, because the Liberal National Party has been talking about it. The minister says that the government is tough and it is going to crack down on this. She talked about bullies in the LNP. She said that the LNP would create more bullies and that there are enough bullies in the ranks of the LNP. A simple Google search will reveal a lot about this minister and bullying tactics. So it is really the pot calling the kettle black when the minister comes in here and says that she has a plan. Those opposite have had no plan for 12 years. I say to Queenslanders: not Anna Bligh, not Labor, not again!

*(Time expired)*