




Speech by

Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Hansard Thursday, 15 November 2012

JUVENILE CRIME

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government) (6.00 pm): Last Saturday night residents in the Townsville suburbs of Vincent and Heatley woke to find their neighbourhoods under attack. They reported more than 100 youths, some as young as 10, roaming the street, damaging cars and properties, throwing rocks and leaving behind a trail of destruction and empty bottles. Police recorded 22 calls to 000 from affected residents during the course of Saturday night and Sunday morning. This is the last thing the good people of Vincent and Heatley need as they continue to rebuild their lives after a mini tornado ripped through the area back in March.

My first question is this: where were the parents? My parents would not have put up with this kind of behaviour. Today I have to acknowledge in the chamber my father, Tony, who is visiting from North Queensland. Where were the parents of these children? I do not have a head full of grey hair, but even in my day we had fun but we knew where to draw the line.

Parents need to show some leadership and take responsibility for their kids, but we as a state government must also do better than what we have seen under Labor over the past decade. So what can we do? Firstly, we need more police on the beat. We have committed to putting 1,100 new police on Queensland's streets over the next four years, with another 200 officers to be redeployed from administrative tasks back to the front line. This has already begun. I am confident Townsville will benefit each and every year from extra officers at the coalface.

This government has taken steps to re-energise Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Stoppers across the state with a \$1 million investment. We have also listened to the community and launched two boot camp trials. While our city is not on the pilot round, I will fight to make sure Townsville gets a permanent sight if the trial is a success. But we also need magistrates to listen to community sentiment. While we have a long way to go until we get on top of crime, we have already made changes to strengthen our laws. They include a new offender levy of up to \$300 for anyone found guilty in court over and above any penalty issued, an increase in the non-parole period for multiple murders from 20 to 30 years, an increase in the penalty for assaulting police from seven to 14 years, and minimum penalties of \$5,000 and two years disqualification for evading police.

I commend the Minister for Police, who is currently reviewing the evading police laws and will report back to the House early in the new year. This is something we have to look at. We also need to look at our attitude to juveniles who commit crimes. It is not acceptable for us to blame society. It is not acceptable for us to blame a troubled upbringing. If people are doing the wrong thing, they deserve to be punished. That is the way a society must react, otherwise we will continue to have these problems time and time again. We must send a strong message through tougher law and order, through more police on the beat and through sentences that reflect community sentiment that we must get tough on crime.