



Speech by


Hon. Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Hansard Thursday, 15 November 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Juvenile Justice, Boot Camps

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.42 am): It gives me an immense amount of pleasure to announce that the Kokoda Challenge Association and Safe Pathways have been selected to run the Newman government's first two-year boot camp trial. The Kokoda Challenge Association has been selected to deliver the Early Intervention Youth Boot Camp on the Gold Coast and Safe Pathways has been selected to run the Sentenced Youth Boot Camp in Cairns.

After announcing a two-year trial of two youth boot camp programs on 20 August 2012, an open tender process was used to identify service providers to deliver these boot camps. These organisations were selected from more than 20 tenders across Queensland and, given that the calibre of applications was high, the final decision was not an easy one to make. Based on the specifications outlined in the tender process, the Kokoda Challenge Association and Safe Pathways demonstrated that they are best equipped to operate our two boot camps.

Many of you will have heard of the Kokoda Challenge Association, whose patron is Victoria Cross recipient Keith Payne OAM. Kokoda Challenge Association has been running youth camps for almost seven years and will deliver the boot camp program from their property at Lake Maroon. The early intervention boot camps will focus on helping young kids who are at risk of choosing a life of crime, and Kokoda is well placed to deliver this program.

Safe Pathways has almost 20 years experience in providing human services and delivering residential care to youth at risk in Queensland and the Northern Territory. This makes Safe Pathways an ideal service provider to operate the sentenced boot camp for kids who are already in the youth justice system but need help to make better life choices.

The design of these boot camps is the result of significant community consultation. I have now held two ministerial roundtables at Parliament House where community groups and departmental representatives were invited to discuss the structure of the boot camps. Both boot camps will provide participants with discipline, structure and physical training but will also focus on health, education and family issues. The most important aspect of these camps is to ensure the offenders' families are involved in the rehabilitation process. These camps will not be easy but will provide an alternative to the revolving door of the youth crime created by the former Labor government.

The Newman government is committed to changing the culture of youth crime, and to achieve this young people must be held accountable for their actions. My department will now work closely with the service providers to ensure that the youth boot camps are up and running by early January 2013.

The Newman government is serious about youth justice. That is why we are changing the way we deal with young people. We will not revert to the failed Labor policies of the past. We will try new initiatives like the boot camps to get this great state back on track once again.