




Speech by

Hon. Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Hansard Wednesday, 31 October 2012

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL AND APPROPRIATION BILL: LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (8.00 pm): In responding to the estimates committee inquiries can I thank all the members on the estimates committee on the day. I particularly pay tribute to the chairman, the member for Condamine.

Mr Rickuss: He made you look good!

Mr BLEIJIE: Absolutely. I think he did a fantastic job in chairing the committee. My part of the committee hearing went for five hours, so it was not short. I certainly concur with the comments of the member for Condamine who said that the committee was going well until the member for Bundamba showed up for the last half an hour and carried on with her usual theatrics, and then the committee went quite sour. I thank the member for Condamine for chairing the committee. It was a long committee hearing—some five hours—and then they had the honourable police minister for another few hours after that. So it was a full day.

Can I pay tribute to my department for getting through what has been a difficult period for all departments. There are some great highlights for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General that were noted in the estimates hearings. I will talk about a couple of those in the short time that I have.

The government moved straight away to deliver our commitment that we want Queensland to be the safest place in which to raise a child. One of our large commitments in the election campaign was the establishment of a commission of inquiry. Governments do not establish commissions of inquiry lightly or unadvisedly because they are an expensive exercise, but we know we have a particular problem in Queensland. We want Queensland to be the safest place in which to raise a child. Therefore, we set up the Carmody inquiry. I know that yesterday they were out at Ipswich. I fully anticipate that that commission of inquiry will come up with some great recommendations for the future and for the protection of children in Queensland.

I was very pleased to join the Premier at Gadens legal where we announced funding of \$750,000 for women's legal services.

Mr McVeigh interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes, Paul Spiro is the partner there.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: The managing partner he is, Treasurer, yes. This will really help disadvantaged women across Queensland. The \$750,000 that this government has given because they were underfunded by previous Labor governments certainly will go some way towards helping them reestablish their rural phone line for rural and regional women right across Queensland. Hopefully, they can reopen their Friday session so they do not have to turn seven women away a night.

We will soon establish boot camps in Queensland for those in the juvenile justice system. This will see a commitment of \$2 million. This is an exciting opportunity for participants in the youth justice space. Yesterday I was pleased to host at Parliament House a second round table with youth industry leaders and some MPs from right around Queensland. We were looking at how we get these young kids back on track and get them out of our justice system and living a fulfilled life with a job and an education. We want them to turn their lives around and get out of the college of crime. Boot camps will go a long way towards achieving that.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Treasurer. The CMC has been the subject of debate. I was pleased to establish a reference group led by former High Court judge the Hon. Ian Callinan. I table a copy of the terms of reference for the advisory panel.

Tabled paper: Crime and Misconduct Act 2001, Advisory Panel, Terms of Reference [[1466](#)].

I look forward to receiving their remarks, recommendations and advice early next year.

If we look at some of the comments made by some members in the House we find the opposition leader criticised the establishment of the CMC inquiry. The CMC received \$50 million of Queensland taxpayers' money. It should be open to accountability and of the highest integrity. That is why I have set up an independent advisory panel to the Attorney-General to look at those issues.

I thank and pay tribute to the member for Broadwater for her contribution in terms of the Women's Legal Service. The member for Rockhampton talked about the number of questions asked. I sat there for five hours and the member for Rockhampton never even got to ask a question in the estimates committee. He was not allowed by the Leader of the Opposition. He never got to ask me a question.

I pay tribute to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. I pay particular tribute to the honourable Treasurer in really getting this state's finances back on track. My department and I have been particularly pleased to be a part of the big fiscal repair task that we have ahead of us.