




Speech by

Michael Pucci

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Hansard Wednesday, 22 August 2012

CRIME

 **Mr PUCCI** (Logan—LNP) (10.29 pm): Today I rise in the House to address a concern that for me and my electorate is a pressing issue. Our government is paving the way for more accountability, and I believe it is time to encourage not only government accountability but also personal accountability. It is time to hold people accountable for their actions and once more instil a sense of respect for their fellow citizens and community to which they belong—something which I believe has been sorely lost on society today.

Several weeks ago in my electorate a local firearm business was ram-raided. Local businesses, private and public property and individual citizens were being targeted by criminals who believe that it is their right to steal, damage and degrade our community. Since then, due to the hard work of our local police, suspects have been arrested for this crime.

With a continued rise in the prevalence of hooning and alcohol related antisocial behaviour, public decency is being lost on some. When faced with the consequences of their actions, the offenders without hesitation pass the buck back to the very community which they have perpetrated against.

I commend the new legislative measures that can tackle these issues such as more police, tighter laws on repeat offenders, tougher laws on crime against police officers and all the steps that our government has either already achieved or is on the way to achieving as part of our action plan to get the state back on track. However, I advocate that we need to be as strongly committed to crime prevention as we are when dealing with the aftermath of the appalling behaviour of those who commit crime. I commend the government's commitment to increase school and community based policing. It is through education and community involvement that we can look to restore the personal accountability and responsibility that is lacking in society.

When an offender sets out to commit a crime, it is not out of desperation. It is not due to a lack of basic entitlements such as clothes and food. It is perpetrated out of a want or need for destruction, their own personal enjoyment and the desire to inflict pain and loss on hardworking people. This lack of respect is holding back not only themselves but also the community at large from achieving our full potential. It is preventing our community from being the next growth region in our vibrant and bustling state. With the current predicament we face, only together as a community can we make positive changes for a brighter future. My electorate of Logan, like so many other electorates across our fair state, has a dilemma.

A government member: Is it the truth?

Mr PUCCI: It is the truth. It is a dilemma which can be addressed by restoring community pride and accountability, by better education through community policing programs and, most of all, by restoring respect for one another. I have faith that our government and our communities will achieve these goals. I wholeheartedly believe that our policies, whilst working hand in hand with the community to establish more personal accountability, will restore a sense of pride and respect to our great state.