




Speech By  
**Hon. Jarrod Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Cairns, Boot Camp**

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.52 am): The LNP government is committed to breaking the cycle of youth crime and providing opportunities for young Queenslanders to get their lives back on track. The trial of a youth boot camp program is a key strategy under this government's Safer Streets Crime Action Plan. The aim of the boot camps of course is to reduce youth offending within the community and deter young offenders from choosing a life of crime. Immediately following cabinet approval of the boot camps in August 2012, an open tender process was conducted for the Cairns sentenced youth boot camp. Following a selection process, Safe Pathways was appointed the service provider for the boot camp in Cairns and signed a service agreement on 6 December 2012. All members would know, however, that an incident occurred at the residential facility at Kuranda on the night of Sunday, 21 April 2013 in which two young people on boot camp orders absconded. On 23 April 2013 a show-cause notice was issued to Safe Pathways seeking a response from the organisation with respect to the incident. Safe Pathways responded to the show-cause notice on 2 May 2013. The assessment of the Safe Pathways' response to the show-cause notice identified significant deficits and on 20 May 2013 my director-general terminated the contract with Safe Pathways. But this government will not give up on Cairns.

Today I can announce that the government is now calling for new expressions of interest from service providers who wish to deliver the Cairns youth boot camp, with expressions of interest closing on 14 June 2013. The procurement process and the associated service provider requirements have been comprehensively reviewed to ensure the appointment of a service provider who is well placed to deliver the boot camp residential component on a suitably remote property that will ensure community safety. After all, these are boot camps, not band camps.

Information on the call for submissions to deliver the Cairns boot camp is available on the website of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Unlike members of the former Labor government, who chose to bury their heads in the sand when it came to the issue of youth crime or did not take responsibility when things went wrong, this government is committed to taking a fresh approach to boot camps and to youth justice. Boot camps are a key component of that strategy. Youth crime remains a serious issue and a huge concern for the Cairns community and it is for this reason that the government remains committed to the youth boot camp as an effective program diverting young people from a life of crime.