



Speech By  
**Hon. Jarrod Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 31 October 2013

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Criminal Motorcycle Gangs; Buy Smart Competition**

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.50 am): Let me start by strongly endorsing and backing the ministerial statement made by the honourable the Premier this morning. Just like the Premier reflected on events 25 years ago and the courageous Tony Fitzgerald, so, too, will the people of Queensland in the next 25 years reflect on the past few weeks. Know this: they will be saying in 25 years that this Premier and this government had the guts and determination to rid this state of criminal gangs once and for all.

I am delighted to inform the House that on Tuesday of this week I hosted the Newman government's 2013 Buy Smart Competition awards ceremony during the parliamentary lunch recess. The Buy Smart Competition is open to school-age children and is a major component of the Office of Fair Trading's youth engagement strategy. Its aim is to get Queensland's youngest consumers making smart decisions in today's complex and ever-changing marketplace.

Just how important this is may surprise members. Fourteen per cent of people who declared bankruptcy in 2011 were aged between 18 and 29 years. Thirty-four per cent of students in years 4 to 6 and 94 per cent of students in years 11 and 12 have a mobile phone. Twenty per cent of young mobile phone owners admit their bills cause them problems. These figures are sobering. As all parents know, our children are entering the marketplace at a younger age. Australian Bureau of Statistics research shows that Queensland has a higher proportion of its population in the youth demographic than the Australian average. This means that, as Queenslanders, it is even more important that we invest the time and effort needed to provide our kids with the life skills the Buy Smart Competition teaches. Interestingly, on the day we conducted a straw poll about the types of mobile phones people have. I am pleased to say that the Samsungs and the Apples were there. No child had a Blackberry. They realise it is antiquated technology!

The innovation and imagination shown by these students every year is remarkable, with entries covering a variety of consumer and trade topics including dealing with identity theft, budgeting tips and tricks, how to say no to door-to-door traders, refund and return rights and how to safely shop online. Students communicate these fair-trading messages in a variety of ways including by board games, computer games, websites, consumer magazines, posters, calendars, marketing gimmicks such as pillowcases—to help consumers sleep easy after making good credit choices—and advertising slogans on T-shirts, shopping lists and car bumper stickers.

A favourite entry topic each year is budgeting, and this year was no exception, Treasurer. The importance of saving and spending wisely is something his parents should have started teaching him from an early age.

**Mr Nicholls:** They could have told them.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Maybe if the Labor Party did this Buy Smart Competition years ago we would not have had the problems we have had in this state in the past 10 years.

For the years 7-9 category, first prize was awarded to students from Sheldon College, second prize went to students from Mount Gravatt State High School and third prize was awarded to a student from Citipointe Christian College. Honourable members may be interested to know that students from Cairns, 1,000 kilometres away, skyped in. Ten 'highly commended' prizes were also awarded to students from across the state. It was great to meet and acknowledge the efforts of some of our bright young people of Queensland with their teachers, parents and friends, as well as my parliamentary colleagues who were able to attend.

I thank the Office of Fair Trading for organising yet another very successful, enjoyable Buy Smart Competition. This year was the 12th year of the competition—its biggest yet, with over 1,200 entries. Finally, in the years 4-6 category a student from Forest Lake State School took out first prize, students from St Gerard Majella School in Cairns came second and students from Forest Lake State School came third.