




Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS**

**Queensland Traffic Offenders Program**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.58 pm): I rise to talk about an organisation called QTOP, Queensland Traffic Offenders Program. The Queensland Traffic Offenders Program is headed up by the director, Lara Hickling, who is a volunteer. I have attended two sessions of this program to see what it is about. The first was a police and law session headed by a volunteer, Brooke Winter, a solicitor based on the Gold Coast and the second was a trauma session headed by one of our fire officers, Vic Canton. There are three other sessions—a fatigue session, a grief session and an effects on health session—which people who take on this program have to complete.

Participants attend the program for offences such as drink driving, drug driving, unlicensed or disqualified driving, hooning, evading police plus numerous other offences. QTOP is a diversion program designed to reduce the rate of recidivism in drink drivers by focusing on the drivers of unsafe driving. QTOP is currently working closely with legal representatives to establish an effective referral process for Brisbane based offenders.

The program is held at two locations at the moment: the Life Development Centre in Nerang and the Carson Room, which is at the Mount Gravatt Bowls Club on Logan Road, Mount Gravatt. The cost per participant is \$165. As I mentioned earlier, the presenters are volunteers. Participants listen to these expert lecturers who also include driver safety trainers, emergency services officers, drug and alcohol counsellors, police officers and lawyers. The objective is to use a variety of shock and impact methods to encourage drivers to change their dangerous behaviour and, therefore, reduce the risk of offending. Magistrates may consider completion of the program as a mitigating factor when sentencing offenders.

In my remaining few seconds I will reflect on one particular young fellow who was completing the program on the first day that I was there. He overheard me talking to a solicitor about the \$5,000 fine for people who evade police. We were trying to work out when it started, and he was able to tell us. He could advise us the date the program started because he had been a repeat offender. He had offended twice before this program came in. He received two fines for those offences, each of \$150 and the last time around he received a \$5,000 fine and lost his licence for two years. I asked him if he was going to tell his mates about it. He said that they already know; he has let them know loud and clear. That is about this government bringing down—

*(Time expired)*