



Speech By  
**Hon. Jarrod Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 May 2014

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Parliamentary Inquiry, Crime**

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.46 am): I am pleased to advise the House today that the Leader of the House will move a motion to establish a parliamentary inquiry that will shine the light on crime in Queensland. This government went to the election with a strong plan to revitalise front-line services for families, rebalance the scales of justice and to make sure Queensland is the safest place to raise a family. We have already delivered significantly on this commitment by cracking down on criminal gangs, expanding unexplained wealth laws and increasing penalties for many offences including murder, drug trafficking, serious assaults on police and weapons offences. We have also provided an additional \$2 million to groups that support victims of crime. I recently announced \$65 million of funding for Legal Aid Queensland over the next year and a further \$30 million for community legal centres over the next three years.

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee will be tasked with travelling the state and hearing from victims of crime and others via public and private submissions in order to determine what can be done to combat crime in Queensland. The committee will be tasked with reporting by 31 October 2014 on strategies to prevent and reduce criminal activity, with the aim of building a stronger and safer community.

The trends and types of criminal activity will be examined as well as the social and economic contributors to crime, the impacts of criminal activity, the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies and the experience of Queenslanders with regard to the criminal justice system. The inquiry will also look interstate and overseas at what other jurisdictions are doing and how we compare.

In developing the terms of reference for this inquiry, I received input from the Queensland Law Society, Caxton Legal Centre, the Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services and the Women's Legal Service, and I wish to thank those organisations for their great assistance. The Women's Legal Service advocated for an examination of the causes and responses to sexual and domestic violence, and I am pleased to advise that the inquiry will look specifically at these issues. Twenty years of Labor government in Queensland meant that victims were ignored and the rights of the offender were prioritised.

In terms of criminal law policy, the current Labor team have no plan and the only thing they are consistent about is their inconsistency. This inquiry is about listening to victims, listening to Queenslanders, examining the evidence, and the results will assist and develop Queensland's crime-fighting future. This inquiry is part of the government's strong plan for a bright future, and it will continue the work we have already done to make Queensland the safest place to raise a family.