




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszcuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2015

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry, Final Report

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.42 am): On 30 October Commissioner Michael Byrne QC presented me with the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry's final report. It is fair to say that Mr Byrne's report reads like a catalogue of horrors.

In the area of child exploitation, we have the best police in the world. These are officers and detectives who do a thorough, exhaustive and international class job under the most difficult, often horrific, circumstances. These are police officers who every day go to work in a determined effort to hunt down the worst of the worst—those offenders who target and harm our children.

These are police officers who are passionate about their job, passionate about protecting Queensland kids and resolute in their dogged investigations into the worst type of criminal offenders. These are police officers who have had major successes across Queensland—indeed, across the globe—in tracking down child sex offenders.

I want to be clear that these officers, particularly those at the coalface in Task Force Argos, have the absolute support of me as Premier and of my government.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I do not need your interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: But, at the same time, the facts are clear. This is a dark criminal area that requires more support and more resources. That is the clear finding of Mr Byrne's commission of inquiry and that is what they will get from my government.

My government has taken immediate action to address the critical finding of the commission that more resources are needed on the front line to investigate child exploitation by providing \$3.2 million in new funding to boost resources. The \$3.2 million has been sourced from savings from the commission, which came in more than 50 per cent under its budget of \$6 million.

Exploitation of our children cannot be tolerated. We must take every immediate step possible to protect our children. My government will take immediate action to implement a range of recommendations made by the commission, including establishing a new police task force, to be called Taskforce Orion.

Headed by a detective inspector, it will tackle child exploitation activities and deliver a tactical operational response to these types of offences. Taskforce Orion will work alongside the existing Taskforce Argos. An extra six staff will be employed for the duration of Taskforce Orion to provide improved forensic capability, to improve victim identification capacity and to provide additional intelligence and technical support. Taskforce Orion and existing police officers will also be provided with greater ICT capability through a mobile app which can be used to proactively target offenders in the field utilising the latest in GPS technology.

The Queensland Police Service will work with the Crime and Corruption Commission to develop improved capability in support of joint operations and investigations involving child exploitation material shared across peer-to-peer networks. The focus will not just be on policing. The government will also look at better ways to educate children and parents. We will work with Triple P International and the University of Queensland to ensure that seminars and programs cross-promote the extensive resources currently available.

Additionally, my government will look to partner with the Commonwealth Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner. The commissioner is currently responsible for Australia-wide initiatives and strategies, including education resources for classrooms, parents, schools, online programs and complaints and reporting resources. A meeting has been scheduled for mid-November.

The government will also investigate the feasibility of establishing in Brisbane a pilot of a one-stop-shop approach to better investigate and respond to child sexual offending and child abuse. Over the coming months, these initiatives will ensure there is an increased focus on protecting the most vulnerable members of our society—our children. In light of the horrific stories told in Mr Byrne's report in relation to our children, we must do all that we can to keep them safe.