




Speech By
Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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ADJOURNMENT

Law Week; Juvenile Justice

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (8.18 pm): Last week was Law Week and I was very pleased to host a number of celebratory events in the Morayfield state electorate. Like many Queenslanders, there is much to celebrate during this year's Law Week. More importantly, we can celebrate that, after three long years, Queensland now has a government that respects the independence of the judiciary, knows how to maintain the confidence of discussions with members of the judiciary and the legal profession, is committed to an independent anti-corruption watchdog and robust parliamentary oversight of it and ensures that the government always makes decisions in the public interest. I say that because, after three long years, Queensland now has a government committed to those high standards of transparency, accountability and integrity which are essential to a healthy democracy and economy. For those reasons alone there is much to celebrate during this year's Law Week.

Last week, I was pleased to host the Attorney-General at a number of Law Week events in the Morayfield state electorate. Along with the state member for Pumicestone, the Attorney-General and I participated in an outstanding question-and-answer session with the very impressive year 11 and 12 legal studies students of Morayfield State High School, Caboolture State High School and Tullawong State High School. The students asked many insightful questions, including questions about a bill of rights for Queensland and the varied daily routine of an attorney-general. It was a pleasure to share some time with the next generation of legal practitioners and I wish those students all the best for the remainder of their legal studies.

The Attorney-General, the state member for Pumicestone and I also visited the very dedicated staff of the Caboolture Youth Justice Centre. I always enjoy meeting with the staff of the Caboolture Youth Justice Centre and I was very proud to introduce the Attorney-General to them. I was very happy to hear the Attorney-General talk about her passion for and belief in youth justice services, the principle of detention as a last resort and the need for early intervention and prevention programs, which, to be frank, is a welcome change to the view held by the Attorney-General's predecessor. I know that the staff of the Caboolture Youth Justice Centre appreciated the Attorney-General's visit and the encouragement conveyed to them for all the good work that they do for the young people of the Caboolture region.

As an aside, I am also pleased to hear the Attorney-General's recent media statements about the government's response to the absolute shambles that was created by the former LNP government in relation to its boot camp failures. The waste of millions of dollars and the serious concerns raised by the Auditor-General in his report simply highlight the complete failure of the former attorney-general's approach to youth justice.