




Speech By
Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 18 August 2016

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Child Protection

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (2.56 pm): I am very proud of my family and the contribution that they have all made to our community and our state over their lifetimes. My father worked for 45 years in the Queensland Public Service, many of those years with the department of family services, now known as the Department of Child Safety. My younger brother is an outstanding social worker who has worked with the Department of Child Safety and non-government organisations all over the world, including Doomadgee, Nepal and Melbourne. All of my life I have heard stories about at-risk children and families. All of my life I have seen the dedication of our child safety workers to their mission of keeping Queensland children safe.

When it comes to the safety of Queensland children and the wellbeing of families, we must always remain vigilant. After all, child safety is paramount. Child safety is everybody's business. If our Child Safety structures and frameworks and resourcing models need to be improved then we should improve them. If there are questions about our systems then we should have thorough reviews, find the answers and implement the solutions. If we have tragedies then we should do whatever we can to ensure that we prevent them from ever happening again. I am devastated by a recent tragedy in my area. We lost one of our own and we must leave no stone unturned in our investigations. We must do whatever we can to keep our kids safe.

The Queensland government is working with stakeholders and the community sector to invest in family support services and strengthen the safety net for children all over Queensland, including the Caboolture region. In the Caboolture region new local Family and Child Connect services and new family support services are providing direct support to an average of 258 families each month. In addition, a new intensive family support service is working intensely with an average of 74 local families each month. To strengthen our child protection system, more foster carers, more support and more and better trained staff are being rolled out in the Caboolture region. Already four additional staff have been allocated to the Caboolture Child Safety Service Centre since January this year and I understand that further additional resources and child safety supports will be rolled out in the Caboolture region in the near future.

I have always fought for more and better front-line services for the Caboolture region and I will always continue to do so. We must always do whatever we can to keep our children safe.