




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 18 August 2016

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Townsville, Crime

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (10.24 am): Sadly I rise in the House today to inform my colleagues that Townsville remains the crime capital of Queensland. Reports released this week with regard to car thefts tell us that since 1 January this year there have been 634 car theft arrests compared to 361 in the same period last year—a whopping 75 per cent increase in 12 months. Our police are doing their best to keep crime down in Townsville, but they are constantly frustrated that repeat youth offenders are using our courts and our detention centres as revolving doors. Is it any wonder that youth crime in Townsville is rampant when those who are eventually detained are allowed to commit the same crimes inside detention centres that they were convicted of on the outside? I table a newspaper report from the *Townsville Bulletin*.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 16 August 2016, titled 'Soft approach no answer to young ratbags' [\[1306\]](#).

Reports this week tell us—and it was not the minister who advised us about this but the *Townsville Bulletin*—about a riot that took place in the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre last weekend. This is what they were guilty of. They disobeyed directions from the prison officers directly, like they do to the police when they are outside. They damaged property inside the detention centre, like they do on the outside. They used shade cloths as slippery slides and then they insulted and assaulted our hardworking prison officers by blowing smoke into their faces. I did not think smoking was allowed in youth detention centres anymore. All of this was without consequences. Our detention centre sources are telling us that the officers were instructed not to use any force in bringing these repeat youth offenders under control. They were corralled back into their rooms and assured that there would be no consequences if they went back to their rooms.

What have we heard instead? This is the government that rejected early preventative boot camps; it said that they were expensive and they did not work. Last week we heard their announcement that they are bringing in culturally appropriate adventure learning programs—politically correct names for politically correct programs. I can imagine them sitting around toasting marshmallows at the fire singing kumbaya while youth crime still runs rampant in Townsville. When is this government going to get serious about out-of-control youth crime in Townsville?