




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Record of Proceedings, 9 August 2017

CORRECTIVE SERVICES (NO BODY, NO PAROLE) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.16 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Corrective Services (No Body, No Parole) Amendment Bill 2017. I would like to acknowledge the Splitt family in the gallery tonight. My contribution this evening will be me reading a letter that the Pullen family gave me this afternoon. My contribution will be their words. The letter reads—

Have you ever been faced with that question where the answer eludes you? We are sure that you have and it has driven you to distraction. That is what the victims of homicide where their loved ones' remains have never been located are faced with every day—a life sentence of broken hearts and wondering, always wondering! To truly understand you need to have travelled a similar journey, a senseless journey that is sadly travelled too often.

Our 'elusive question without an answer' began in April 2012 when our beloved son, brother and Uncle Tim was murdered. Tim was maimed or killed, bundled into a car, stored somewhere, possibly a cold room at a night club for the day before overnight being bundled back in to the same car and driven hundreds of kilometres to be discarded like a lump of rubbish in a paddock—such despicable acts of inhumanity.

Six people have so far been sentenced in relation to Tim's murder. Three of these perpetrators are already out of prison, one of them as recently as last week and another eligible for parole in November.

For our family to respectfully be able to say our goodbyes to Tim we need to be able to locate his remains so that we can hold a funeral. We truly don't believe that we have really started the grieving process as we are living in such surreal circumstances. Burying a child has to be any parents worst nightmare but can you imagine if we were to go to our grave without having said our goodbyes to Tim—that is just inconceivable. To be able to start moving forward with life our family needs this 'elusive question' to be answered.

We believe the only hope we have of ever finding Tim's remains is to have the No Body No Parole Legislation passed retrospectively and it needs to encompass any perpetrators who have been involved in a homicide whether the charges be murder, manslaughter or accessory after the fact to either murder or manslaughter. For some reason the charges of murder or accessory after the fact to murder are being downgraded to manslaughter or accessory after the fact to manslaughter more often, especially in regional areas. In cases such as ours where there are multiple perpetrators it is usually the ones charged with accessory after the fact who actually know exactly where the remains are.

We plea with you that you have this legislation passed now with an amendment to cover accessory after the fact to manslaughter to hopefully put a stop to other families having to suffer the anguish and torment that our family is faced with each and every day. We realise that this Legislation isn't necessarily going to make all perpetrators disclose what they have done with bodies but surely the thought of no parole has to be a huge incentive to divulge where the remains are located.

Regards,

Gary and Leanne Pullen and Family on behalf of Tim

On behalf of the Pullen family, I commend the bill to the House.