




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 6 September 2017

MOTION: YOUTH OFFENDERS, ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.31 pm): I am very pleased to participate in this debate tonight as the minister—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: No, stop, Pause the clock. Minister, I think we will start again. I cannot hear you. Would you like to start again, please.

Ms FENTIMAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am very pleased to participate in this debate tonight as the Minister for Youth in the Palaszczuk government. We just heard the contribution from the member for Everton, who talked about us being tricky or sneaky. He said, 'Supervised bail accommodation—what could it mean?' Maybe we need to say it a little bit slower: supervised bail accommodation. If you are literate, you will know what that means.

I am proud to be part of a government that is finally acting to align ourselves with the rest of this country by treating 17-year-olds as juveniles in the youth justice system. This is a government that wants to address youth offending and its causes rather than sensationalising and scapegoating young people in Queensland.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I apologise, Minister. Member for Chatsworth, I cannot hear the minister clearly and if I cannot, Hansard cannot. If you and your associates continue you will be warned.

Ms FENTIMAN: The Palaszczuk government absolutely believes that we need to hold young people who offend to account, but we also recognise that we need to address youth homelessness, intervene to support families earlier, provide alternate education options and properly rehabilitate young people to reduce reoffending. This motion is nothing but a distraction for the LNP because they do not want to talk about their failed policies in the area of youth justice which have left us with a mess to fix.

Who could forget the travesty that was the LNP's boot camp policy? It was a very special project from the former attorney-general, a significant election commitment and, I have to say, an unmitigated \$14 million disaster—\$14 million of taxpayers' money went down the drain. Do you know how many young people went through these boot camps? Thirty-six. Those opposite spent \$14 million on 36 young people, not to mention there was not one impact on reoffending rates.

While we are talking about boot camps we also have to talk about some of the dodgy procurement practices that were involved with them. The Queensland Audit Office found that the previous attorney-general's decisions resulted in significant issues regarding the procurement processes for some boot camps in relation to his decision to select providers that were not recommended by the department. The Audit Office found—

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Minister. I would urge you to try and make sure there is some connection with the amendment before the House, please.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The opposition has had some latitude and the government is getting some latitude as well. I call the minister.

Ms FENTIMAN: They do not want to talk about their record on youth justice—\$14 million for 36 juvenile offenders with no impact on reoffending. In relation to the boot camps the Queensland Audit Office found that there was a lack of sufficient and appropriate documentation, which meant that the subsequent processes followed by the then attorney-general and his staff to award contracts did not meet—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. One moment, Minister, I apologise. I cannot hear the minister. I do not know who the members are from the opposition. If I identify you, you will join the member for Yeerongpilly. The minister has the call. She has two minutes left.

Ms FENTIMAN: Fourteen million dollars went down the drain for 36 offenders with no impact on reoffending and there was a dodgy procurement process. They also do not want to talk about their legacy of cuts to youth organisations right across the state. There was \$7.3 million cut to organisations—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: Member for Nanango, I am very happy to take that interjection, because there were a number of organisations cut from your electorate in Kingaroy. Let's list them—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition—

Mrs Frecklington: She is baiting me, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. We will wait. I call the minister. She has one minute left.

Ms FENTIMAN: Queensland Youth Services lost \$1.5 million in funding; the Brisbane Youth Service was cut by \$170,000; the Gold Coast Youth Service lost \$89,000 in funding; the Goodna Youth Service was cut by \$55,000; and the Queensland PCYC Youth Welfare Association lost \$121,000 in funding. Their record on youth justice is a failed boot camp policy, \$14 million down the drain and—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under standing order 253A. You join the member for Yeerongpilly with a first warning. If you persist I will take the appropriate action. I call the minister.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. You are also warned, member for Mudgeeraba, under standing order 253A. You have had a pretty good go all evening. I have made it very clear what my view is. The minister has the call.

Ms FENTIMAN: Where the LNP has no vision to reduce crime, just tabloid headlines and knee-jerk reactions, the Palaszczuk government is committed to reforms that ensure timely and effective justice for young people across the state.

(Time expired)