




Speech By  
**Trevor Watts**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 August 2017

**CORRECTIVE SERVICES (NO BODY, NO PAROLE) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (9.55 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Corrective Services (No Body, No Parole) Amendment Bill 2017. This bill is really about the victims who are left behind when a heinous crime has occurred. I will read a statement from the submission of Mrs Fiona Splitt, who wholeheartedly supports the bill. She states—

The loss of a loved one is never easy to deal with, but the grief can be even harder to overcome, when you can not lay them to rest. When families lose a loved one, to the callous act of murder, the heartache and pain is overbearing, but to not know where your loved one is, or be given the opportunity to have closure and say goodbye, causes constant unbearable pain and suffering to victims' families.

That is why we are all here tonight and that is why we all agree: because we would like to play what small part we can to reduce the unbearable pain and suffering that a victim's family will feel. We need to look at why parole exists. Parole exists to try to help someone who may have been incarcerated for a long time to readjust into society once they have served the time apportioned to them by the judiciary, but I think it makes good sense to not allow them that privilege if someone else has not been able to continue their life fully adjusted back into society because they have been denied the opportunity to grieve and to pay their respects to their loved one who was taken from them.

I wholeheartedly support this bill. I think any prisoner who continues someone's suffering after committing such a crime should continue to be punished, and we should have legislation to ensure that. For those reasons, I think the bill is very worthy. I pay tribute to the many families and individuals who have fought for this over a period of time. I pay tribute to all members of the House who have worked to ensure some level of relief for that ongoing pain and suffering. I do not think anyone here can imagine what it would be like to live that life. We should not be letting people back into our community who are denying people the opportunity to grieve and to say goodbye in an appropriate way.

For me, this is about making sure the victims are looked after by the legislation that we pass here. We make legislation for many different things. When a crime like this is committed, some of it is about punishment and some of it is about making sure that the scales of justice are balanced so that people who do these things to families and members of our community are not allowed to participate in our community.

For me, on a personal level someone who would not cooperate with police, not see the error of their ways, not understand the effect they have had on victims and not understand the ongoing effects and consequences that has for our whole community should not be considered for any form of early release at all. They should serve the absolute length of time that they were given.

I will be supporting this bill. I thank the families again for their ongoing efforts to make sure that this House not only has heard their pain and their suffering but has acted on that to try to provide whatever relief we can to them. We obviously cannot right the wrong, but we can make sure the people who committed those wrongs do not get an opportunity to enter back into our society. In that way, we can at least do all we can to reduce that pain and suffering.