



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2017

**MOTION**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Crime**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (6.29 pm): The LNP must be preparing for an election campaign, because here we go again! They are pulling out their normal predictable tricks. It is the same old, same old LNP. They talk tough on crime except they cannot help but overreach every single time and play cheap politics when it comes to law and order. They do it all the time. They overreached under Campbell Newman in government and they are overreaching under Tim Nicholls as Leader of the Opposition. Nothing changes when it comes to the LNP and playing the fear campaign that they always do when they see that an election is coming.

**Mr Hinchliffe:** It is in their DNA.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take that interjection. It is in their DNA. What has become clear about the LNP in the Justice portfolio and right across government is that, despite their bluster and chest beating, at the end of the day the LNP has no strategy, no answers and they do not believe in evidence based policy.

As those opposite proved when they were in government and have continued to prove in opposition, they are not committed to delivering and they are not capable of delivering for the people of Queensland. In contrast, the Palaszczuk government is proudly committed to making Queensland a safer place to live, work, raise our kids and enjoy time with family and friends.

Those opposite talk about youth justice. To understand the LNP's absolute refusal to look to evidence based policy you only need to look at their history in relation to youth justice. They set up a boot camp in Cairns, but the first two who went in there escaped. One held a knife to an older woman's throat. They committed offences. The LNP shifted to another boot camp, spent millions of dollars and saw no reduction in recidivism. It was a complete failure.

This government wants policies and programs that reduce recidivism and stop young people offending in the first place, because that helps make our communities safer. This government has brought in Transition 2 Success, trauma informed practice, the first nations action board working with Indigenous people, staff and elders in the community to recognise the problems with not just Indigenous youth but also Indigenous adult prisoners, restorative justice, court referred youth justice conferencing which those opposite scrapped, transition from detention, Childrens Court committee, specialist Childrens Court magistrate in Townsville, justice reinvestment, mental health services, the Stronger Communities initiative in Townsville, the community youth response, improved flexible education—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take that interjection from the member for Kawana. They say that it is not working, but they love to cherrypick crime statistics. They did it when they were in government; they are doing it in opposition. They do not believe in facts; they just believe in scare campaigns.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take the interjection from the member for Kawana, because he loves to quote—

**Mr Bleijie:** I didn't say anything.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Someone on the other side of the House said, 'What about Judge Shanahan?' Those opposite love to quote him. The honourable Judge Shanahan was highly critical of the LNP's changes in youth justice. They should stop verballing him, stop cherrypicking from his reports and start being honest with the people of Queensland.

It is this government that has brought in serious organised crime legislation that does not look only at criminal motorcycle gangs but also at child exploitation and financial crimes, which are rife on the Gold Coast. Mums and dads and pensioners are being ripped off. Those opposite never talk about that. It is this government that is taking action on ice. It is this government that has dealt with the issue of alcohol fuelled violence and did what those opposite did not have the guts to do, that is, pull back liquor trading hours.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I am reluctant to name members during this debate, but members are pushing my tolerance a little bit, quite frankly.

**Mrs D'ATH:** It is this government that is investing in our police and that is investing in a broader youth justice strategy and a crime strategy to reduce offending and recidivism. You cannot just lock people up and expect that when they get out again they will not commit another offence. You have to have a strategy to deal with crime. That is where the LNP fall down every single time. They just want to lock people up and they have no strategy to stop offending and recidivism when they get out.

**A government member:** Turnstile.

**Mrs D'ATH:** It is a turnstile. Whether it is on alcohol fuelled violence, serious organised crime or youth justice, it is this government that does the hard work based on evidence that puts the policies in place, to work with the community to get real reform to keep our communities safe.