



Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 9 August 2017

CORRECTIVE SERVICES (NO BODY, NO PAROLE) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.00 pm), in reply: It is an absolute pleasure to rise to speak in response to the contributions that have been made in this debate. I truly thank each and every one of the honourable members sitting around this chamber for their contributions to the debate on the Corrective Services (No Body, No Parole) Amendment Bill 2017. The bill itself has one objective: to implement a robust and effective no-body no-parole policy in Queensland in accordance with the government's commitment to implement recommendation 87 of the Queensland Parole System Review. The policy framework in this bill should provide much needed assistance to those families who find themselves in the distressing position of enduring the unknown when their loved one's remains unable to be found by investigating authorities.

It must again be acknowledged that this bill is a direct product of the strong advocacy of a number of people, but I must single out Fiona Splitt and her contribution and advocacy. Mrs Splitt has made tireless representations to the government and met with Mr Sofronoff QC, as he then was, during the consultation phase of the Queensland Parole System Review. We have heard members also referring to the petition that she put together. I also want to acknowledge Gary and Leanne Pullen for their contribution and I thank them so much for talking to me about their personal story and heartache. Everyone in this chamber certainly feels for you tonight in this debate. None of us can truly understand the pain that any of you are going through. We can, as family members, as parents, have some inkling of what it is like to lose a loved one, a child or a partner but we can never truly understand unless we are in the position that you have been in. Tonight this is for all of you, for all of those families out there.

Tonight we will finalise the second reading of this bill and tomorrow as it appears we will pass this bill. I want to acknowledge the opposition with their proposed amendments and the government's amendments and I thank the member for Mansfield. We have worked together throughout the evening and we have reached agreement on those amendments so we will stand here in this chamber tomorrow and unanimously support this bill and what I believe will be the strongest no-body no-parole framework in this country. I thank each and every one of you.

This bill is yet another reform which demonstrates the Queensland government's ongoing commitment to provide assistance to victims of crime. I would like to again thank all of the key stakeholders for their contribution and cooperation during the committee's consideration of the bill. I appreciate there are those in the legal profession who do not necessarily hold the views that this bill should go ahead, but I do believe, as the member for Mansfield said, that the benefits certainly outweigh the concerns that have been raised. I do believe that families deserve some closure. If we as elected members in this parliament can make a decision here in this parliament that can put in place provisions that potentially could result in that closure, we should do so and that is what we are going to do with this bill. I am very proud to be moving this bill. In conclusion, I thank all of the honourable members for their contributions during the debate. I thank the committee, the stakeholders and the committee secretariat. I commend the bill to the House.