




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2017

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Youth Justice

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.19 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to reforming youth justice in this state. We already see a reduction in youth offending in areas such as Townsville through our initiatives to target youth crime. We have committed to transitioning 17-year-olds into the youth justice system so that we can target the cause of crime and stop young people offending in the future. We will do this in a safe and sensible way for the community, youth justice staff and young offenders. We will ensure the courts have the options to steer young people away from crime. We will tackle our remand numbers, the highest in the country. This includes looking at secure accommodation for bail so that young people have greater oversight to ensure they comply with their bail conditions, including curfews, resulting in making our community safe at the same time as reducing offending. We will look at new ways to address our youngest offenders, the 10- to 13-year-olds, to get them reconnected with family and re-engaged in education.

Reforms like this take time and we must get it right. The Palaszczuk government has done much in the last 2½ years in starting this important body of work and will continue doing so into the future as part of the transition of 17-year-olds. This is in stark contrast to the LNP. Tim Nicholls brings a whole new meaning to small-target campaigning. 'Tiny Tim' has now decided that they should have the flimsiest—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I think those comments are not appropriate, Attorney-General. Will you withdraw?

Mrs D'ATH: I withdraw. The LNP has decided to have the flimsiest of policies possible. The LNP's policy on youth justice is the laziest policy development I have ever seen. It would have taken more time to decide what photo of Tim and Deb to use than to write the policy itself.

Mr SPEAKER: No props, thank you.

Mrs D'ATH: I wish to table this policy.

Tabled paper: Liberal National Party document, undated, titled 'Getting tough on young Offenders' [\[1386\]](#).

This is recycled policy from the Newman government. The plan itself is called Our Real Plan—as opposed to their previous fake plans! They now have to use the heading 'Our Real Plan'. Their entire youth justice policy is 169 words. If we want to know why those policies do not work, I table the Children's Court of Queensland annual reports for 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Tabled paper: Report: Childrens Court of Queensland, Annual Report 2013-2014 [\[1387\]](#).

Tabled paper: Report: Childrens Court of Queensland, Annual Report 2014-2015 [\[1388\]](#).

Justice Shanahan clearly spells out why these policies do not work. If those on the other side want to make sure that we stop offending—

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Hinchinbrook. I know that everyone is excited. I am having difficulty hearing the Attorney-General.

Mrs D'ATH: If those on the other side want to stop wasting taxpayers' money and clogging up the courts, maybe they can disclose their political donations.