




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

**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 September 2017

**MOTION: YOUTH OFFENDERS, ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (6.10 pm): In speaking to the motion put by the member for Mansfield, I was going to circulate an amendment that actually proposed Friday, 22 September. I am happy to settle for Thursday, 21 September 2017. I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'that' be deleted and the following words inserted:

'this House notes the Attorney-General's undertaking to table in the House a list of proposed locations for 'Supervised Bail Accommodation options' for youth offenders by noon Thursday, 21 September 2017.'

We word it in that way to follow the conventions of this House when it comes to asking for documents to be produced. It is appropriate to 'call on' as opposed to 'order' a minister to produce a document. Having said that, we have no objection to producing the document by Thursday, 21 September, and we ask for members on both sides of the parliament to support that amended motion.

This motion put by the opposition today is all about trying to create fear in the community. We have talked about this before. They say that there has been zero consultation, but what they mean is that they have not been consulted. Quite honestly, why would we consult an opposition who believes that the only solution to deal with youth justice is to create more offences, to clog up our courts and to have overcrowded youth detention centres that will lead to adult correction centres being overcrowded because that is exactly where those young people will end up?

The opposition have learnt absolutely nothing from when they were in government. They have not at any point learnt anything. They like to refer to the Hon. Judge Shanahan and his annual reports. What they never read out from those reports is the criticism in relation to their legislation and the changes that they brought in. The judge went into great detail to say there was no trend in escalating youth crime, despite the rhetoric from those on the other side claiming there was. When specifically talking to what was the opposition's bill in 2014, he said—

Several of these changes cause me grave concern.

The principle that detention should be a sentence of last resort in relation to a child is of long standing in the common law and recognised in all other Australian States.

He then went on to talk about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. He talked about the importance of rehabilitation. He said—

Change was unnecessary in the light of the statistics and the principles of juvenile justice.

He said—

If the rationale was some sort of "naming and shaming" then the measure is particularly ill advised.

He went on to say—

"Naming and shaming" does little to impact on recidivism and may significantly impact on the chances of rehabilitation, particularly in small communities. "Naming and shaming" regimes have been abandoned in the Northern Territory and the United Kingdom. I am aware of no empirical evidence that shows it has an impact on recidivism.

Yet what we have is the LNP's new policy, or should I say the recycled policy of the Leader of the Opposition, Tim Nicholls. The only thing they support recycling on is LNP policies from the Newman government. This policy has five dot points. That is how they are going to deal with youth justice, with five dot points. They talk about the complexity of dealing with 17-year-olds but they have absolutely no idea. They talk about supervised bail accommodation like this is a new concept. There are NGOs in the community who are housing youth, who are providing accommodation, for kids in the youth justice system who are on bail. Shock, horror! They are actually in our communities right now and they are called youth shelters. They are all over this great state and I want to acknowledge the great NGOs who are doing that work and supporting those organisations.

The opposition have no policy and they have no direction. They talk about honesty to the people of Queensland, but they need to be honest. What are they going to do in relation to the legislation on 17-year-olds? Will they reverse it? Will they support NGOs who are doing this great work in the community? What about all the NGOs who were defunded because Skilling Queenslanders for Work was scrapped? It is those same NGOs. The opposition do not support community organisations. They do not support early intervention and restorative justice.

**An honourable member:** Wait and see.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Wait and see? We will.

*(Time expired)*