




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 8 March 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Police Response Times

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.00 pm): Like the LNP, I believe in the worth and dignity of every individual but also in the individual as the underpinning of a society in which people of different beliefs and cultures live in peace and harmony with each other, contributing to the common good, respecting others and taking seriously their obligations as citizens of Australia. Sadly, with increasing individualism, indeed selfishness, the peace and harmony of our society is being challenged. We see it on a global and international scale, but disappointingly it is in the neighbourhood that it is often most evident.

I was recently contacted by a constituent, Mr Robert 'Tony' Walker, of Moorina. Too often, Tony and his family have the peace of their neighbourhood shattered by others unwilling to accept their role in maintaining the local peace and harmony. Mr Walker is a friend of the police. He has served for decades as a volunteer in police. He was intrinsic in the development of the Kippa-Ring PCYC in the 1970s. He knows the hard work of our front-line police officers. He does not want in any way his experiences to be seen as a criticism of their community service. Indeed, he wants to personally thank Acting Sergeant Jason Dawe. However, on three separate occasions when he has contacted Policelink to report rowdy rave parties in his neighbourhood, he has been less than inspired, indeed saddened, by the response.

In one instance, police finally attended at 1 am and reported that all seemed quiet. Well of course it was—the party had ended at 11.30 pm, some hours after Mr Walker had reported it. On the next occasion, the party started at 8 am, was reported and the police did not turn up until 10 pm. On the final occasion on Australia Day this year, the party again started at 8 am. Mr Walker reported it at 9 am and every hour on the hour until police attended at 8.30 pm that evening. Mr Walker understands that there can be higher priorities for our local officers, but nearly 12 hours to action a request?

Perhaps more disappointing for Mr Walker, though, is the treatment he received from the person who took his Policelink call. Initially she asked if Mr Walker would not go and tell them to turn it down himself and then suggested he and his family go for a drive. Mr Walker explained he was suffering from gout and was unable to drive, to which the reply was, 'Well, call an ambulance.' But worse than this is the response he got after writing to his friend, former local MP and police minister Mark Ryan. The response from the minister's chief of staff which I table in Mr Walker's own words was condescending.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 26 February 2018, from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, Hon. Mark Ryan, to Mr Robert and Mrs Patricia Walker regarding the Queensland Police Service's procedure for investigating noise complaints [307](#).

Mr Walker and I appreciate there are limitations within the legislation as it pertains to noise abatement, but he and I implore the minister to try and do more to ensure Policelink operators demonstrate basic people skills, that police respond as quickly as possible and that they be equipped with meaningful laws that will make a difference. There is no doubt the neighbours themselves have a responsibility—indeed the primary responsibility—but in a society that is forgetting how to live in peace and harmony sometimes people like Mr Walker simply need a helping hand.