



Speech By  
**David Janetzki**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2018

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Youth Justice**

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.22 pm): If we ever needed a visual representation of the Labor government's loss of control over the youth justice system, we only needed to turn on the TV this week to see youth and young offenders on the roof of the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre, destroying Queensland taxpayers' property.

**Mr Costigan:** Not again?

**Mr JANETZKI:** Again; I take the interjection from the member for Whitsunday. It appears that over the two terms of the Palaszczuk Labor government this problem has gotten worse. It seems that the government has only two levers for the problem: reports and a bottomless pit of money. Over the past two years, over 750 pages of reports and over 150 recommendations have been delivered to this government, but what have we received? No substantive action to resolve the problems in youth justice around Queensland! Those problems started early. They started with the transition of 17-year-olds into youth detention centres. We warned that they had no plan, but that is exactly what occurred. Two years on and we are still months away from having 17-year-olds reintegrated into the youth justice system.

At the time that that was announced, in September 2016, we also warned that there would be overcrowding problems in youth detention facilities in Queensland and, yes, there have been. The Labor government's solution to that particular problem was bail houses. If we learnt anything during the estimates process it was that the minister is walking away from bail houses at a very quick pace. We know that since January this year in Queensland there have been 41 critical incidents in bail houses, 35 of those in Townsville. We know that millions of dollars have been spent. From the 2018-19 budget, we know that the Labor government is shutting down the establishment of any new bail houses. There will be no new bail houses in 2018-19. They have walked away from the bail house at Jacobs Well.

This issue is of grave concern, particularly to the people of Townsville. Townsville bail houses have been involved in 35 of the 41 critical incidents. Thirty-three offenders have served time in those bail houses, five of whom escaped and reoffended. The people of Townsville deserve better. The members representing the Townsville area stand silent in the face of that concern. Instead, they have outsourced their jobs to Major General Smith, who is now responsible for delivering law and order on the streets of Townsville. The people of Townsville have had Townsville Strikeforce, they have had the failed bail houses and now what are they left with? No solutions from a government, insecurity right throughout the community and, sadly, a youth justice system that is doing nothing to help at-risk youth and young offenders get their lives back on track.

*(Time expired)*