



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

---

Record of Proceedings, 16 May 2018

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Task Force Argos**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.00 am): Whether you are our youngest five millionth Queenslander or our oldest Queenslander, our government is building safer communities by supporting our police. Our government is committed to making sure our police have the resources and laws they need to keep our most innocent, our children, safe. We have invested \$39 million over four years to target all forms of serious and organised crime, including crimes against children.

Following the commission of inquiry into organised crime, our government announced the allocation of over \$3 million to enhance the capabilities of investigators working tirelessly to target those who commit atrocious sexually based crimes against children. New organised crime legislation also allows police to further crack down on online child sex offending and exploitation. The new offence covers child exploitation and related crimes. Since February this year, 59 charges have been laid.

Our famous Task Force Argos's reputation continues to grow internationally. I am very pleased to announce that just a few weeks ago the head of Task Force Argos, Detective Inspector Jon Rouse, received an international award for his dedication to fighting and investigating crimes against children for more than 20 years. Detective Inspector Jon Rouse was presented with the international Champion for Children Award at the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children's 2018 Gala for Child Protection. This is an outstanding recognition and a well-deserved honour for a very humble man who has truly transformed Queensland and saved the lives of many Queensland children, our most vulnerable citizens. I know Queenslanders everywhere are very grateful for the outstanding work of not only Jon but his entire team at Task Force Argos. On behalf of all Queenslanders, I thank Jon and Task Force Argos for everything they do to help keep Queenslanders safe.