




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Task Force Argos

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.13 am): The world's eyes turn to Queensland when it comes to the best of the best. Here in Queensland we have an elite team of internet warriors who fight the good fight on a dark, depraved and truly disturbing battlefield. It is a war focused on protecting our most vulnerable—our children—and those children have the very best of allies. I speak of Queensland's own Task Force Argos.

Over the past two decades this dedicated team has become instrumental in the undoing of some of the world's worst paedophiles, waging war against those who abuse children. The motto of Task Force Argos is 'leave no stone unturned'. Task Force Argos is making a difference not only here in Queensland or in Australia; it is also making a difference right across the world. In the last year, Task Force Argos detectives contributed to the removal of 83 children from sexual harm nationally and internationally. They have arrested 200 child sex offenders on over 1,200 criminal charges. They have finalised one major international operation targeting child sexual exploitation. They have generated 309 case referrals to law enforcement agencies nationally and internationally, and they have identified 83 child victims globally.

The members of Task Force Argos are among the world's elite, and we are very fortunate to have them here in Queensland. I am very pleased as the police minister to be part of a government which financially supports Task Force Argos. It is hard to think of money better spent. Task Force Argos with its unrivalled experience is making a difference not only here in Queensland but right across the world. They are shining a light onto a very dark place. To the Task Force Argos team, I say on behalf of all Queenslanders: thank you for your tireless efforts on behalf of the most innocent people in the world, our children.