




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 3 September 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Child Protection

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.13 pm): In my previous career I witnessed tragic cases of child abuse, cases that drive me to change our laws to protect the most innocent and vulnerable in our community, our children. This week is National Child Protection Week and I would like to use this opportunity to reflect on a system that is broken and legislation that simply does not go far enough to protect children and fails to meet community expectations. This government and our current laws are failing young people. In contrast, an LNP government will strengthen legislation and make our communities safe.

There is no excuse for killing a vulnerable, innocent and defenceless young child. Our society expects and demands that governments will enact laws that provide the greatest protection and strongest sentences for those who commit such heinous crimes, yet in Queensland this is currently not the case. Earlier this year the Palaszczuk government tweaked the legislation after the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council found that sentences for the manslaughter of a child were inadequate and did not meet community expectations. The report found that offenders guilty of child manslaughter receive on average a sentence of only 6.8 years in prison. The LNP has proposed much tougher child protection laws that will essentially fill a big gap between mandatory life for murder or 6.8 years for manslaughter. The LNP's proposed new child homicide offence will mean—

Mr BROWN: I rise to a point of order. There is a private member's bill before the House on this matter.

Mr SPEAKER: I was looking at that myself in terms of the *Notice Paper*. Member for Ninderry, I ask that you cease speaking directly to the bill and related matters. If you could try to round your comments out in terms of being more general and principles based that may assist.

Mr PURDIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Our laws must serve not only to punish those convicted of crimes against our most vulnerable, they need to go one step further and act as a very strong deterrent. Also in this state there are around 2,800 registered child sex offenders at large in our community who are being monitored by only 33 police officers. Right here in Townsville right now there are around 170 registered child sex offenders being monitored by only two dedicated CPOR officers. One of these officers has been reassigned to other duties due to stress, leaving just one officer to try to monitor around 170 paedophiles.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Ninderry, I am listening to the contribution and I think you are straying towards the bill again. The member for Toowoomba South is better placed than me with regard to the bill and its intent, however, as I understand it, I think you may be anticipating debate on the bill. As I said, if you can talk about general principles as opposed to matters that are dealt with directly by that bill it may assist.

Mr PURDIE: I appreciate your guidance, Mr Speaker. I could go on, but they are just two examples of where a generation of soft-on-crime, Labor governments in this state are failing to protect our kids. We are continually seeing overstretched, underfunded and underresourced police officers. The thin blue line in this state is getting thinner and it is continuing to get thinner particularly in places like Townsville.