




Speech By
David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Youth Detention

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.18 pm): Recently *Four Corners* did an extraordinary report into what is going on in Queensland watch houses. What we saw should horrify every Queenslander. We saw children as young as 10 in watch houses, some of which accommodate up to 70 kids. We saw kids lying on foam mattresses, crying out for their mothers. Some of those kids had been there for long periods. We heard stories of a severed finger and kids living next door to hardened criminals.

Since that horrific report on *Four Corners*, the question has to be asked: what has the Labor government been doing about this? It is truly precious little. What have they done? The first thing they have done is issue media releases. They issued a media release talking about a new department that the Premier said would take a fresh look at this problem. There is no need for a fresh look. There is a need for a decision. It is time to get kids out of watch houses. There is no need for a fresh look.

The second thing they have been doing is talking about money. They talk a lot about money. There is now over \$500 million committed to youth justice in Queensland. I will be watching that like a hawk to make sure it is spent appropriately because I have no confidence—and the budget yesterday proved it again—that that money will be spent appropriately. The numbers they should be concerned about are the numbers Mark Willacy keeps on tweeting. On 30 May there were 69 kids still in watch houses—30 of them had been there for a long period of time.

The third thing they have been doing is wasting time. They have been wasting time in this parliament. They blocked our amendment for a 72-hour time frame to get kids out of watch houses. They have ignored our temporary accommodation idea, blindly following their own ideological pursuits.

Worst of all, they have wasted this parliament's time. Members may recall that in the last sitting week when this issue was crying out for government leadership the former attorney-general, the member for Woodridge, was in this House talking partisan political dross about Jim Chalmers and said not a single word about watch houses. A bit like Jim Chalmers, who did not have the ticker to have a crack at the Labor leadership, we have the member for Woodridge unable to show the ticker to have a go at the Treasurer.

An opposition member: No comment.

Mr JANETZKI: No comment, member for Woodridge. We had the current Attorney-General wax lyrical with partisan political dross about a couple of Labor candidates somewhere. There was not a single word about kids in watch houses in Queensland. There was not a single word about the human rights of these kids in watch houses. Then we had the wannabee attorney-general of Queensland, the member for Waterford, who similarly spoke partisan political dross about Des Hardman in the seat of Forde. There was no talk about human rights and the kids are still in watch houses.