



Speech By  
**David Janetzki**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2019

**LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (3.16 pm): It is appropriate that I make my contribution after the shadow child safety minister, because he knows and properly understands the importance of the Queensland Family and Child Commission and the importance of this report. I listened to some of the perfunctory contributions from those opposite. I sometimes wonder whether they understand the true importance of the Queensland Family and Child Commission. Then I realise that those opposite voted against the introduction of the Queensland Family and Child Commission. Therefore, we should not be surprised that it has taken a long time for the recommendations of the Carmody inquiry to be implemented and seen through to their conclusion.

One of the surprising things for me in my first couple of years as a member of this House was the issue that brought people into my electorate office. I was expecting very different people to come and see me in my electorate office. I thought people would come with infrastructure, transport or other law and order related issues. More than any other issue in my first three years in this House, it was child safety. It was not just from biological parents; it was also from foster parents who were deeply concerned about the child safety system and about the love, care and attention they had put into children who were seemingly put back into harm's way, and it was from whistleblowers, whether it be those working in the broader foster care system or those out of the child safety department. People were concerned about what was happening and they wanted me, as a new member of parliament, to know. I have carried a lot of that with me. I am particularly passionate about the protection of our vulnerable and defenceless children. That is what the Queensland Family and Child Commission is all about. It is about protecting them and seeing through the implementation of other inquiries and other activities to make sure our children are protected.

The fact that those opposite—the Labor Party—opposed this organisation even being part of the child protection system in Queensland is shocking. It is shocking that those opposite would have opposed this in the first place. When I think about the children who have died since 2015—Latrell Dodd, Mason Parker, Mason Jett Lee—I think about—

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection from the Minister for Child Safety, because under this government's watch we have seen children dying, reports being redacted and delayed for years.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Member for Toowoomba South—

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection from the former child safety shadow minister. We have seen—

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** One moment, member for Toowoomba South. Member for Bulimba, there is room on the speaking list if you wish to speak, otherwise the member for Toowoomba South has the call.

**Mr JANETZKI:** We are still waiting for the release of her secret Mason Jett Lee report and other reports that have been highly redacted, so the—

**Dr Rowan** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** They are, and I take the interjection from the member for Moggill; they continue to fail those most vulnerable. We have seen the Labor Party oppose the Queensland Family and Child Commission. We have seen the Labor Party in government as children have died and reports have been redacted and not even released. There is a child safety crisis in Queensland and, as the shadow child safety minister articulated, the statistics show it. They show it and they showed it was a cultural problem even last year during discussion on our private member's bill with regard to Mason Jett Lee or child homicide, and I note that one of the indicators noted by the QFCC related to child homicide in Queensland. There has been no national data released since February 2015. We need to get to the bottom of the protection system of our most defenceless and our most vulnerable, because if we in this House and in this parliament do not stand up for the most defenceless and most vulnerable in our community then who will? We know that it will never be a Labor government that stands up for them. It will only ever be an LNP that cares about our most defenceless.