




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BURNETT

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Child Protection

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (2.43 pm): This week is National Child Protection Week. We all have a role to play in keeping our children safe from harm. Child abuse and neglect is preventable and we can all work together as a community to create an Australia and Queensland where children can grow up safe and well. The aim of this week is to engage all members of the community in supporting families and protecting our most vulnerable children. This year, National Child Protection Week focuses on introducing a child development communication framework to promote two important messages. Those messages are that kids do well when parents are supported and, to raise thriving kids, parents need support to navigate life's choppy waters. It is worrying to see the increase in the number of child concern reports in over just 12 months. We have to remember that these are not just numbers on paper; they represent children in our regions, in our towns, and on our streets. We need to do more to stop child abuse and neglect.

I want to talk about a project in the Burnett electorate. Promo Plugs is based on Let Their Voices Be Heard, which was a project run by the Bundaberg Child Protection Week Action Group about 10 years ago. YMCA Bundaberg resurrected the project with Youth Services and ABC Wide Bay. They partnered to do a project where the young people of Bundaberg had the opportunity to have their voices heard. YMCA youth services manager, Tricia Cross, drew together a diverse range of young people, including young Indigenous people, young people with language issues, South Sea islanders and young people with disabilities to participate in the program. Some of the parents of these young people have little or no English. The young people were asked three questions. What makes you feel safe? What makes you feel happy? Who is your hero?

After a group session those young people were taken into the recording studio where Scott Lamond and Brad Marsellos, both from ABC Radio, recorded their responses and then sent the information to Brisbane to be edited and recorded onto a CD. Last week, these promos were played to the young people in the ABC studio with their parents and me. It was a very rewarding experience. Each young person was given a Child Protection Week T-shirt and a copy of the CD. This CD will be played at the Bundaberg Child Protection Dinner at Bundaberg tomorrow night. I table a copy of this CD for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Compact disc, undated, titled 'ABC Wide Bay 2019' [1449](#).

In May this year the Queensland Audit Office released a report stating that the Child Safety department has not effectively implemented all of the recommendations that the Queensland Audit Office had made in its 2014-15 reported titled *Managing child safety information*. I believe that this failure to reform child safety data is continuing to put children's information at risk, put children themselves at risk and is continuing to put unnecessary pressure on Child Safety staff. We want to make sure that the minister is providing—

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr BENNETT: The minister may be incapable of delivering the services and the reforms needed, but the people in our communities need these reforms. Queensland needs action now for these most vulnerable children. We want to make sure that kids are treated with respect. Although we can all help to keep children safe in Queensland, we must give the Child Safety department the resources and make sure that this minister gets on with the job.