



Speech By  
**Trevor Watts**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 May 2019

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Crime; Youth Detention**

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.54 pm): Here in Queensland under the Palaszczuk Labor government we have a crime and detention crisis. This week we saw the Premier express confidence in her minister, despite a police fail. The budget is down and crime is up. We have a jail fail. Another minister is protesting against this minister to ensure QCS staff are paid correctly. They have been beaten up and cannot properly run the jail, because they are doubled up and it is overcrowded. Of course, going forward this situation will affect recidivism. There is a pay fail for those officers, but a wider law and order and detention fail is occurring. This week we heard of some terrible stories about our watch houses under this Labor administration. Members opposite should be horrified and embarrassed to have stood in this place and passed human rights legislation while breaching just about every section of it in terms of what is occurring half a kilometre or a kilometre down the road.

I really urge the minister and the Premier to take a serious look at that watch house. I am seriously concerned for the welfare of young people accommodated there awaiting charges and/or sentencing. I also am extremely concerned about the police officers serving in that place not only in terms of being assaulted but also in terms of the mental pressure they are under. They are not trained child psychologist specialists and our people in the Queensland Police Service do matter. We need a minister to take responsibility to address, sooner rather than later, what is occurring in that facility.

The fails do not stop there. There is a boots-on-the-ground failure. There was a promise at the last election about police being put out on the beat, but that is not happening at the rate at which it should. Does anybody think: is that not enough? No. Some 1,500 people who marched on the south side of Brisbane were complaining and wanting crime stopped, because enough is enough.

We think that surely that must be the end of the woes in crime and crisis in Queensland and our detention centres but, no, the bikies are back. The minister had strong words about the legislation he introduced to this place, but there were almost no charges. There is a jail fail, a watch house fail, a law and order fail, a pay fail and a crime and detention crisis in this state. The minister needs to take responsibility but, most of all, the Premier needs to take responsibility for the welfare of the officers and of the juveniles in the watch house.