




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, LNP Plan

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (3.58 pm): I rise to speak against this motion. What we see time and time again is the LNP putting up plans—you would certainly not call them policies—that have no evidence, no research and no backing of proper consultation with stakeholders.

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection: 'We just go and talk to the people.' No, those opposite go out and talk down to and mislead the people in communities right across Queensland. Those opposite say that they are tough on crime, but the fact is that the opposition in government could not produce a shred of evidence that any of their policies around youth crime actually reduced offending and recidivism.

Mrs Frecklington: Youth crime was down.

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection from the member for Nanango. With regard to their level of recidivism, they had kids in their boot camps coming back two or three times. They enjoyed it so much, they kept reoffending so they could come back again! It did not reduce recidivism at all. There is zero evidence whatsoever—

Mr Bleijie: I was the toughest Attorney in the world. Take that interjection!

Mrs D'ATH: You were also the most disliked Attorney-General in the world, but—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Attorney-General, you will put your comments through the chair. I do not believe it is becoming to ask for people to take interjections in that manner, member for Kawana.

Mrs D'ATH: The claim of the opposition that it will bring back breach of bail for youth offenders is not supported by any stakeholders and is not supported by any evidence whatsoever. There is no evidence whatsoever, other than tying up police resources and courts for more charges that do not prove that it reduces recidivism at all.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, you are already under a warning.

Mrs D'ATH: In relation to the issue of public sex offender registers, the member for Nanango continues to go out there and seek to convince the people of Queensland that a public sex offender register would make them safer. She ignores completely the sort of evidence being put forward in research by the Australian Institute of Criminology of the Australian government which talks about—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Ninderry, you are already under a warning. You can leave the chamber under standing order 253A for half an hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Ninderry withdrew from the chamber at 4.01 pm.

Mrs D'ATH: This is a serious issue. There has been research done around the world on this issue that shows there is no evidence that it reduces offending against children but it can in fact increase recidivism. Have a look at the research. I encourage those on the other side to stop misleading the public that it will make them safer. Some examples I have heard, including from Commonwealth ministers, is they want to know that if their child is going for a sleepover they can look up that parent's name and know that their kids are safe. Would they do the same for someone they know well in their church or for a family member?

Ms Bates interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I hear those opposite. The fact is that simply because someone's name is not on the public register does not mean they will not offend against children, so it gives people false hope. In fact, most children are offended against by a family member or a parent.

Mrs Frecklington: Please keep speaking—please. You're helping us out.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you will cease your interjections.

Mrs D'ATH: The member for Nanango is treating this chamber like a circus and playing with people's lives by putting up ideas that do not make the public any safer. With regard to the idea of establishing a new drug rehabilitation and detox facility, that is great. It is wonderful to think that the opposition supports rehabilitation when it scrapped all of the diversionary courts. It scrapped the Drug Court, the Murri Courts, the youth justice conferencing. It has today in this debate bragged that it claims a youth bail accommodation was shifted because the residents did not want it anywhere near them. My question to the Leader of the Opposition is this: when residents do not want your drug rehabilitation facility near them, where are you going to put it?

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, Leader of the House.

Mrs D'ATH: Where are those opposite going to put it? They are misleading the public. There is no evidence to support these policies. They are a shonk, they are scams and they have history.

(Time expired)