




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Child Protection

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.12 pm): In my maiden speech I said—

We all think that victims should be our priority over criminals. We all think that where children are not being afforded love and protection from their own families they should be protected by the state, but we need to think harder, do better at developing and implementing policies that achieve those undisputed ideals.

Today I am immensely proud to be part of a Deb Frecklington-led LNP team who has announced a top-to-bottom overhaul of the broken child protection system. The highest priority of any government should be the safety and security of its citizens, particularly protecting our most vulnerable: our children. There is no doubt in this space that this government has been an epic fail.

Queenslanders are sick of hearing tragic stories week after week about poor, innocent, vulnerable young kids who have fallen through the cracks of this broken child protection system. I previously worked on the front line in the child protection system, and I was working on that front line four years ago when Mason Jett Lee was tragically murdered at Caboolture. It is horrific to read that report. When 21 people in a department are found to be operating outside of the policies and procedures of that department, that is not human error; that is systemic failure.

When the LNP was in government back in 2012 we commissioned the Carmody report which produced a report titled *Taking responsibility: a road map for Queensland child protection*. I want to know who is taking responsibility. Where does the buck stop with this broken system?

I appreciate the minister is in the House. I was going to spend time talking about our policy to improve the situation, but I am more than happy to highlight that the fact that up to 18 children have died suspiciously or were allegedly murdered under this government's watch in the last five years has shown the absolute failure of this broken system. There is no more important job in any government. If a government cannot protect our kids, if it cannot protect the most vulnerable in our society, what can it do?

Getting back on point, that is why I was proud today to be part of a Deb Frecklington-led LNP that has announced a policy that will implement a top-to-bottom overhaul of the child protection system and bring it into line with other law enforcement agencies. There needs to be a chain of command. There needs to be a law enforcement structure where people can be held accountable and the most vulnerable people in our society can be protected.