



Speech By  
**David Janetzki**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

---

Record of Proceedings, 20 February 2020

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Youth Justice**

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.49 pm): There were a couple of telling things about the private member's motion debated in the House last night. Firstly, we could have had nearly every member of parliament from this side of the House on the speaking list. We could have been here for a couple of hours debating that motion. The second thing about the private member's motion, which was most telling, was the geographic diversity represented by the speakers from this side of the House: from the Gold Coast to the Sunshine Coast, from regional Queensland and Kingaroy to inner city suburbs and northern Brisbane, and most telling from ground zero and the electorate of Burdekin near Townsville, the very epicentre of this problem.

Last week the Premier sent the Minister for Police up to Townsville to try to speak to the people there. The Minister for Police got himself tied up in knots. Firstly, he said that there were 'conversations in the works' to appeal light decisions. I reckon there is nothing that scares youth offenders more than conversations in the works! I am sure they are shaking in their boots about those conversations in the works. However, the police minister did not stop there. He went on to effectively criticise the judiciary. He said that if they are not interpreting the legislation properly then the higher courts need to tell the lower courts what to do. Lawyers were furious with that statement.

I think the police minister has misunderstood the role of the Palaszczuk Labor government. I think he has been snoozing through the past five years in this House because it is the Labor government's policies and legislative prescriptions that have left us in this situation where, for example, 17-year-olds have been brought into the youth justice system without a plan. Yesterday the minister quoted the Queensland Police Union president. He should have read what the Police Union president said about 17-year-olds moving into the youth justice system without a plan or any ideas. Now we have the watch house crisis that flowed from the changes to the youth justice system. It was under the Palaszczuk Labor government that young kids' fingers were severed in watch houses around Queensland. At one stage, there were more kids in watch houses than adults in the Brisbane watch house.

When this government introduced those changes to the youth justice system, they voted against our breach of bail amendment. They turned the presumption for bail in favour of the offender. They have introduced bail houses that have been a diabolical failure and will cost \$70 million by 2032. One in six kids is reoffending. Last night in her speech, the member for Mundingburra tried to deflect from this problem, but she did not even mention bail houses.

Enough is enough. The government should change the law or get out of the road and let a Frecklington LNP government—

*(Time expired)*