



Speech By  
**David Janetzki**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 July 2020

**MOTION**

**Youth Crime**

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (5.47 pm): Setting aside the economy for one minute, if there is one issue that has exemplified the abject failure of this Palaszczuk Labor government it is the issue of crime. With the lacklustre performance of the Attorney-General just then, it is not surprising it has been such a failure over the last five years. The crisis that began in crime and youth justice began the very day the Palaszczuk Labor government took power in Queensland in 2015.

Since that time we have had a series of failures, humiliations and backflips. It is a very long list, but I am going to run through a few of them for the benefit of the House. Firstly, we have 17-year-olds in the youth justice system introduced without a plan. The Queensland Police Union said there was no plan. We warned there was no plan. What did that lead to? The watch house crisis, where at one stage the Brisbane watch house had more kids than adults. Shame on this Palaszczuk Labor government for their failures on youth justice, bringing 17-year-olds into the youth justice plan without a proper plan or any idea for the future. They defunded Crime Stoppers. Who would have thought that would be possible? They defunded Crime Stoppers and they left the volunteers hanging out to dry.

**Mr Ryan** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Minister for Police, you are already under a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Morayfield withdrew from the chamber at 5.48 pm.*

**Mr JANETZKI:** Youth justice has seen thousands of pages of reviews and hundreds of recommendations. We have had over \$500 million invested into the youth justice system, and what do we see in our detention centres and prisons? Riots, lockdowns, assaults—

**An opposition member:** Overcrowding.

**Mr JANETZKI:** We have seen overcrowding. We have assaults on our hardworking security guards, our hardworking public servants.

We have seen the humiliation of the catch and release laws. In August last year, those on that side of the House stood up and argued for the catch and release laws. That was in August last year. Within 10 months, they quietly came back into this House and amended those laws. Prior to that we had the police minister up in Townsville criticising lawyers. He is a lawyer I believe, but he went up there and criticised lawyers for simply applying the Palaszczuk Labor government law before they snuck back in and changed it again.

We have had bail houses, and \$70 million will be spent on bail houses by 2022-23. Does this House realise the reoffending rate in bail houses? It is 83 per cent; 121 out of 145 offenders have reoffended. They talk over there about the Newman government. In the last year of the Newman government, as detailed in the Childrens Court report that was released at the end of 2015, we had

seen a five per cent drop in young offenders being charged. This government want to stack that record against an 83 per cent failure—because that is what it is. That is the reoffending rate out of bail houses. It will cost \$70 million by 2022-23 for an 83 per cent failure. How can they possibly compare the record on youth justice and crime in this state?

Then we go to Townsville, which is ultimately ground zero for this particular problem, and that is why the policy was released there last week. We have seen members and ministers go missing in Townsville for so long. They finally found their voice on a couple of occasions when we were sitting in Townsville, but otherwise it has been the *Townsville Bulletin* running the campaign there. Here are some headlines from the last couple of years: 'QLD Police Minister Mark Ryan silent on children bail trips', 'Approach to youth crime a shambles', 'Why crime has Townsville Labor MPs in trouble', 'MP fails on crime yet again', 'Less chat and more action', 'Crims free pass' and my favourite 'Premier clueless on justice needs'.

If there is one leader in this House who is not clueless on justice and who has a plan for the future, it is the member for Nanango. She launched the crime and justice policy in Townsville last week because it is time that we start to put the safety of our community front and centre in this state. That is why we will do 24/7 monitoring of youth offenders on bail, we will introduce community payback farm programs, we will scrap the bail houses and divert that money that is associated with the failure of bail houses into justice reinvestment to finally help children overcome their particular problems and get their lives back on track, and we will toughen the law. Youth justice became a crisis in this state the day the Palaszczuk Labor government was elected and it will remain so until the election of the Frecklington Liberal National government on 31 October, and that moment cannot come soon enough.