




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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MOTION

Youth Crime

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (5.15 pm): It is always a pleasure to follow the member for Townsville. As a former headmaster, he should be aware of the dangers of plagiarising speeches. If he looks at the speech of his colleague the member for Cook—

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry to interrupt your flow, member for Clayfield. The clock needed to be reset to five minutes.

Mr NICHOLLS: I am always grateful for your generosity, Mr Speaker. Long may it remain. The member for Townsville has plagiarised the member for Cook's speech of 19 February this year, word for word. He cannot even come up with his own words for a five-minute speech. What he has failed to address and what he fails to deal with is his total lack of support for a dedicated police helicopter for Townsville. Where has he been on that for the last 3½ years? He has been nowhere with respect to that. Where was he when we put a thousand extra police on the payroll between 2012 and 2016? Where was he when we put portable iPads on the payroll? Where was he when we had tougher laws introduced and when we took on the outlaw bikie gangs and had police's backs? Where was the Labor Party? First they voted in favour of it, then they voted against it. When it comes to being tough on crime, this Labor Party is all talk.

It is often said that addressing causes and responses to crime, and in particular juvenile crime, in Queensland is complex and there are no easy solutions, but there is one simple step that can start the process of dealing with juvenile crime. Just one thing needs to happen, and that one thing is to elect an LNP government. It needs to happen because a change in government will mean that we have a premier, in the member for Nanango, who actually realises we have a crime problem, a leader who listens to the community. The Leader of the Opposition and the shadow ministers—and I have seen them here and I have been with them—attend meetings of Queenslanders throughout the state to hear their concerns and the stories of the impacts of crime on Queenslanders. Compare this to the Premier, who only earlier this year, according to media, told her own caucus members there was no crime problem and her MPs should stop complaining about it. Forget about the Premier not listening to the opposition and forget about the Premier not listening to the voters of Townsville, Gold Coast, Cairns, Aspley, Mansfield or Redlands or my own electorate of Clayfield; she does not even listen to her own caucus.

The causes and responses to crime are complex. No-one denies that. It is often said that in order to fix a problem it needs to be acknowledged as a problem in the first place. The very first step is to acknowledge the existence of a crime problem—something that Premier Palaszczuk refuses to do. This Labor government and its members refuse to acknowledge the problem despite the statistics. Since 2014-15 robbery is up 93 per cent, armed robbery up 86 per cent, unlawful use of a motor vehicle up 77 per cent, unlawful entry up 30 per cent and shop stealing up 69 per cent. On 19 February this year

I highlighted statistics in my electorate of Clayfield. Only last week, the local myPolice North Brisbane website reported a spike in unlawful entry of motor vehicle offences in North Brisbane. The community liaison officer said—

Intelligence officers in North Brisbane have detected a recent spike in the number of vehicles that have been unlawfully entered, and number plates being stolen from parked vehicles.

Disturbingly those figures also show an increase in drug offences in both the Hendra and North Brisbane region.

Clearly, there is a problem from Cairns to Currumbin and from Clayfield to Cunnamulla. The only person who does not think there is a problem is Premier Palaszczuk. An LNP government will address the crime problem. It will do so in a considered and comprehensive way. It will put the safety and security of law-abiding citizens first. It will do this by giving police the powers they need. Importantly, hardworking, honest police will know that an LNP government has their backs—we will support you, we will not go weak at the knees and we will stand by you, just like we did when we took on the bikie gangs in Queensland.

I am glad policies I announced at the last election form part of our plan. These include removing the 'detention as a last resort' provisions of the Youth Justice Act. This allows courts the freedom to ensure the penalty fits the crime. In particular, I support the \$7 million two-year trial in terms of justice reinvestment. The reality is that the only way we will see youth unemployment and juvenile crime both drop and community safety increase is if an LNP government, led by Deb Frecklington—

Mr SPEAKER: The member's time has expired.

Mr NICHOLLS:—is elected to get Queensland working again.