




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MOTION

Youth Crime

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (5.42 pm): The issue of youth crime is not a simple matter. There is no-one in this chamber or the community that supports crime. This side of government has done an incredible amount of work to support victims of crime as well as investing in reducing crime in this state. You cannot put it down to a simple slogan or simple plans that are announced, as the opposition like to do, time and time again, but you would expect that the newly appointed shadow police minister could at least find five minutes to talk about the LNP's plan instead of sitting down after 3½ minutes. There is clearly no substance there whatsoever.

The fact is that when you talk about plans, the LNP's plan is so comprehensive—according to the media release that the LNP put out headed 'Deb's comprehensive plan to crack down on youth crime'—that it could not even make it into their plan for Our Plan for Queensland, so it is sort of like a plan for a plan. Of the six policies that are there, there is nothing about law and order. You have to go searching and you find it under 'news'. They only extend to some quotes in a media release; that is how extensive their plan is.

'The reality is that, sadly, no legislation creates good parents, good families, individual responsibility. People will continue to make poor choices, no matter who is in government.' They are not my words: they are the words of the Redcliffe LNP candidate who, on 7 July, put that on her Facebook page while proudly talking about the LNP's wonderful youth justice policy. That candidate, who likes to come out and support our youth organisations and youth housing and talks about all the wonderful work they are doing, then walks out the door and talks about being tough on crime. 'We're just going to lock up these little thugs.' The inconsistencies of those opposite are just never-ending.

We now hear about their community payback farm program. You can call it a farm, you can call it a boot camp: the reality is that it is the same thing. In fact, there were horses at the boot camp. We know that because you can watch the professionally filmed clip the former attorney-general and member for Kawana made. He used \$15,000 of taxpayers' money to fly two helicopters, including the film crew, out to the boot camp to film these horses and what was happening at this boot camp. It was a ridiculous amount of money. In fact, it was budgeted at \$2 million but it blew out to \$16.7 million.

Mr Ryan: Was that before or after the children's escape?

Mrs D'ATH: Well, it was so good and so effective that some kids got to go back numerous times. They just kept going back to the boot camp. I guess they enjoyed it. They thought it was a great experience.

The problem is that these things on their own do not change behaviour because, no matter how good that experience, when they go back they get placed back into the same family and the same community with the same issues. You need to actually listen to the evidence and the experts and you

need to invest. We hear that they are going to introduce mandatory detention for third convictions. They have not said how much money they are going to put into new youth detention centres. Where are they coming from? How many beds are going to be created?

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: But hold on! No, they actually support justice reinvestment. They are going to trial it, even though it has been happening all over the state. Justice reinvestment includes youth justice conferencing. That was one of those policies they scrapped when in government. Justice reinvestment is a redirection of money from prisons to fund and rebuild human resources and physical infrastructure. As stated in the Australian Law Reform Commission's report—

Justice reinvestment suggests that prisons are an investment failure, 'destabilising communities along with the individuals ...

It appears that the Leader of the Opposition has seen the light. She actually understands what justice reinvestment is. They are so inconsistent in their approach. 'Lock 'em up, build more detention centres.' 'No, we're going to do justice reinvestment.' 'No, no, no. No laws help, it doesn't matter who's in government.' They have no plans; they have no policies.