




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 10 March 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Youth Crime

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (7.10 pm): Youth crime is an extraordinarily complex issue—an issue that we must continue to talk about and work with our communities in an endeavour to solve. The issue is complex and it is generational. Young people today grow up in a very different world than most of us in this place did in the sixties, seventies and eighties. There were not mobile phones that had you connected 24 hours a day—

Mr Crandon: The fifties and sixties.

Ms RICHARDS: The fifties and sixties—I will take that interjection. There was not SnapChat, there were not vaults to hide information, there was not Tinder, there was not Whisper, and we did not have computer games like Grand Theft Auto, Sniper Elite or Resident Evil.

Family units have changed. At a recent chamber of commerce event, the business of the month winner was a marriage counsellor. She asked everybody in the room to put up their hands if they were married. She said, 'Well, the good news is that 50 per cent of you will remain married and 50 per cent of you will end up in divorce.' Times have changed, and change continues to be rapid, particularly for our young people. I am proud to be part of a government that is focused on tackling all facets of this complex issue.

All Queenslanders deserve to be safe in their homes, workplaces and communities. Tackling youth offending helps people feel safer. We want our children and our young people to be brought up safe. We on this side of the House are committed to reforming the youth justice system to make our communities safer and reduce youth crime in Queensland.

I am pleased that, together with the member for Capalaba and our mayor, we will be hosting a Redlands youth crime forum next Monday night. Our forum will be very different to the Longman LNP Crime Forum: we will not be conducting a political fundraiser, we will not be charging \$20 for our community to attend to hear from important stakeholders on crime, and we certainly will not be needing to have prohibited donors call a separate number to see what the arrangements are if they want to attend.

I take this opportunity to thank the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Youth Justice for working with us to establish the forum for next Monday night. As a result, our community will have the opportunity to hear from experts and interact in a Q&A panel discussion on local crime stats with Acting Chief Superintendent Andrew Pilotto and Inspector Lindsay Kilpatrick; the Queensland Youth Crime Taskforce with Assistant Commissioner Scanlon; and the Department of Youth Justice with the reforms leader, Michael Drane. To solve this generational societal problem, we all need to work together.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms RICHARDS: Member for Nanango, we all need to work together because this is a societal issue, my friend.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Redlands, direct your comments through the chair, please.

Ms RICHARDS: We need to work together in here—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, cease all interjections!

Ms RICHARDS: We need to work together with our communities, with our educators, with the police and with the judiciary.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, you have been warned. I ask you to leave the chamber for the remainder of the day.

Whereupon the honourable member for Nanango withdrew from the chamber at 7.13 pm.

Ms RICHARDS: Finally, I would like to give a shout-out to our school based police officer, Corey Dean. He is doing an incredible job in our high schools. His presentation to our parents on cyber safety has to be seen to be believed; it really is fantastic. It reminds our families of the inherent dangers within the online world. To Brendon Winslow and Chris Hebblesworth from the QPS, our community liaison officers: team, I love your work. You are both amazing. Our Redlands QPS is doing a fantastic job.