




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TRAEGER

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Mount Isa, Youth Crime

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (2.51 pm): I wish to talk about the crime that is gripping and tearing apart the fabric of our wonderful community in Mount Isa. Recently I have been told how the data shows that things seem to be coming under control. The government thinks we are doing a good job. I want to give some of my own data and outline some of the reports I have had to field in the past six to 12 months.

In January this year, one elderly widow who had lived in the same house for 51 years had her house ransacked, with furniture and personal effects destroyed. She was left fearful and terrified. Another lady saw girls in the shopping centre spitting, swearing and fighting, which is a regular occurrence, and scaring off an old lady, too. These are the reports that are coming into my office—an old lady too scared to go to the shopping centre. In November last year, another gentleman saw a vicious attack on his neighbours in a suburb we call the 'Bronx'. He attached photos of the injuries which I will be giving to the minister. He witnessed the attack and was attacked himself. He is now fearful to go outside.

In 2019, a lady was sexually assaulted and bashed by someone in her own home. She never recovered and died from those injuries. Heiner Schulz's 95-year-old mother, who grew up and lived most of her life in Mount Isa, was broken into five times in four years. She is since deceased, but she was at her wit's end. Certainly Heiner, her son, was. Kim-Maree Burton, a pillar of the community, was broken into six times in two years at three different locations. Someone took a video of her in bed, and that now appears on social media. She now suffers from anxiety, uncontrollable shaking and depression.

These are just horrible stories, and I am loaded up with them. I cannot walk up the street or go anywhere without people asking me, 'What are you doing about the crime?' I do not know what I am supposed to do. I am talking to the minister and to the government. We are giving them options. There are options out there. There are not great enough consequences for the kids. The police have told me that, yes, kids are going to jail under the new laws, but we have filled up the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre now so I do not know what else is happening. On Sunday I hopped on the plane with one of the worst car-stealing offenders, so he is back on the streets. I am not sure what we in this place are supposed to do or how we fix problems, because it is a problem. No-one is making this up. It is not hype on Facebook. It is not hype by the media. These are real problems. I am sick of hearing it. I am not sure if we are supposed to storm the Bastille, burn torches or wave around pitchforks.

The government need to listen. They listen by going up there and talking to people on the ground. They should not just talk to bureaucrats or people in departments. Some of them who are worried about their jobs must be saying what the government wants to hear, because I cannot reconcile what I am hearing from politicians with what is on the ground. People are angry. It is destroying their lives. Businesses are at their wits' end. It is costing them money. There must be something done to fix it. Relocation sentencing has to be considered.