




Speech By  
**Shane Knuth**

**MEMBER FOR HILL**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 April 2021

### **YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (3.56 pm): In speaking to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, there was significant feedback from regional public hearings and submissions to the committee and also public rallies which clearly show that the bill does not meet community expectations on curbing youth crime. This is a huge issue in North Queensland and it is a huge issue in my electorate. There seems to be a complete lack of empathy and consideration for victims of repeated youth offenders in this bill. The KAP has submitted amendments, which I urge the government to adopt, to strengthen the bill and meet community expectations as expressed during the consultation process.

I recently submitted a petition to the House on youth crime which called on the following measures to be implemented to combat youth crime. These measures were not as a result of the KAP; they were as a result of community consultation. They include: introducing a presumption against bail for youths charged with unlawful use of a motor vehicle—I believe that the government has adopted this; amending legislation to reintroduce breach of bail as an offence for repeated youth offences—I believe the government has not adopted this; repealing item 18 in schedule 1 of the Youth Justice Act, which is the charter of youth justice principles, which provides that a youth should be detained only as a last resort—I believe the government has not adopted this; and trialling a third option for the courts in the form of relocation sentencing as a deterrent and to facilitate the rehabilitation of youth offenders. The petition secured 5,000 signatures, highlighting how big this issue is in my region alone.

Currently the courts have two options: one is to lock them up and they come back out as professional criminals. The other is to release them and they go back out there and commit the same crimes. A third option is relocation sentencing. It is no good sending them to Cleveland because that is a badge of honour for them. They get free boots and a good feed, and it costs up to \$1,500 a day.

The third option is relocation sentencing. Give magistrates the power to send them to remote locations—teach them values, teach them skills such as droving and how to build cattle yards and cattle troughs—along with other proven workable programs. They are banished from their communities so they are not committing crimes in the community—it is very therapeutic when you are out there in remote locations—so there is no crime. They are away from their mates who are committing crimes, and it gives them the opportunity to return and helps break the cycle of crime in their lives. We call on this House to support the KAP's relocation sentencing amendments and the other amendments we have introduced, and that is what I wanted to bring to the attention of the House.