




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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MOTION

Youth Crime

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (5.50 pm): Health, power, debt and crime: the Labor government has lost control of just about the whole suite of service delivery requirements in Queensland. Government members claim that there is some stunt. There is a genuine reflection of concern in the community about Labor's failure to deal with the incidence of youth crime. We see it day after day. Recently, for two weeks almost every night a car was stolen in Townsville and the criminals were running wild.

When it comes to protecting the community, the LNP will always outshine the Labor Party. I have spent the past 50 minutes listening to five members on the Labor side, not one of whom said, 'Our first obligation is to protect the members of the community—protect the innocent, protect their property and make sure they are safe and secure in their homes.' I heard the minister rattle off at least a dozen programs. What were those programs all about? They were all about the offenders. We just heard the member for Keppel. What did she say? She is proud to go to programs that are for offenders. Did any member opposite say, 'I visited the home of someone whose house was broken into, whose car was stolen, who had their bag snatched on the street, who was bashed, who was thumped, who was king hit, who was run over'? Not one of them did.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Logan is warned under the standing orders.

Mr NICHOLLS: This is a problem not just in Townsville; this is a problem across the state. It does not matter whether you are in Roma, Rockhampton, Surfers Paradise or Clayfield. Only last month the Brisbane Airport Corporation conducted a survey of residents of Brisbane. The top three issues in the community were (1) crime; (2) traffic congestion—Labor has lost control of that as well and (3) safety and security. These were the top three matters of concern to people in Brisbane, according to the BAC survey.

Labor has lost control and is either wilfully ignorant or completely and utterly incompetent. We heard them list the so-called failures. The member for Thuringowa talked about the boot camp. How does the member for Thuringowa explain an 85 per cent reoffending rate from Labor's \$30 million bail house program, which they then spent another half a million dollars reviewing to find out it did not work? Then they sat on the report until after an election before coming clean and saying that it was another failure.

We heard the minister talk about half a billion dollars being spent on the youth justice system, \$150 million of which is going into building 30 rooms at a West Moreton correctional centre. That is \$150 million for 30 rooms. Can members believe it? Another \$30 million went into the failed youth bail house scheme. When it comes to spending money, this government has no peer. When it comes to protecting the community and getting results, this government has no standing. It is completely and utterly at sea.

Then we heard claims about breach of bail and the effectiveness of the LNP's laws. This will burn them, but the fact of the matter is that according to the Childrens Court annual report for 2014-15 the incidence of youth crime fell by five per cent. Judge Shanahan filed that report. The report states—

... there was a 8.7% cent decrease from the previous year. The trend line in relation to the ten year comparison of the number of charges against juvenile defendants continues to rise, although in 2014-15 there was a 4.9% cent decrease from the previous year.

There was an almost five per cent decrease in charges dealt with in the Childrens Court, as reported by Judge Shanahan. There is so much I can say. Yes, we supported the government's changes to the laws. We said that we would. We said that we would act in a bipartisan way. We understand that it is 340 repeat, recidivist offenders. We are not suggesting the other 80 per cent who never go on to reoffend should be done for breach of bail, but those 340 who continually commit those offences and who turn up time and time again should be done for breach of bail, as we announced. This government has lost control; the LNP will get it back.