



Speech By  
**Cynthia Lui**


**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2022

## MOTION

### Cairns, Youth Crime

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (5.36 pm): Can you believe the hypocrisy from across the chamber? When the LNP were in government, they sacked over 300 police personnel. They failed to fund the rollout of automatic numberplate recognition technology which helps police track stolen vehicles. In the LNP budget of 2012-13, police were told to tighten their belts. Shame! I say to the member for Burdekin: all talk and no action is not going to do anything to address the issue of youth crime and community safety. Flying into Cairns and scooting up to Mareeba for a cheap photo op is not going to address the issue. The LNP's cheap political stunt does nothing for my community. My community needs more than the cheap talk of those opposite. If they want to help—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): I am having difficulty hearing the member, so I am sure Hansard is having difficulty hearing the member. I ask members to cease their interjections. Many of you have had an opportunity already to have your say. There are another couple of speakers on the list who I am sure will make erudite points.

**Ms LUI:** If the member for Burdekin really wants to help—and I mean really wants to help—I invite him to come and be part of the solution in our communities. I have had many meetings with constituents and stakeholders alike to talk about the issue and I—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you are warned.

**Ms LUI:** One visit into the community is not going to solve the issue.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Moving the office out of the community?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Nanango, you are warned.

**Ms LUI:** One visit into the community is not going to solve the issue. We listened to the concerns of the people of Mareeba and those of other Queenslanders and we acted. Last week, Minister Linard visited my electorate and together we met with Mareeba Shire Council Mayor Angela Toppin, PCYC's Sergeant Mary-Anne West, local stakeholders and Youth Justice and Child Safety. I would like to say to the member for Burdekin that there are so many good things happening in the community—local initiatives and local people standing up because they are passionate about their community—and nothing that the LNP is doing is going to help this community address the issue of community safety.

They provided us with the opportunity to talk about people on the ground, to meet with people on the ground and to hear about all the good things that are happening. We met with staff from Youth Justice and Child Safety. A new office means that staff will be able to spend more time in the community—and less time travelling—where they can provide quality engagement to kids to address some of the issues. With regard to the office that will be in Mareeba we have made the decision to—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members.

**Ms LUI:** Youth justice officers and case workers hold young people accountable for their actions by working with them to fulfil a range of court orders and bail conditions such as community service, restorative justice, probation orders and conditional release orders. They deliver programs that help change their behaviours, control their emotions and reduce aggression. They work with stakeholders such as Education, Health and Police to address the issues that contribute to young people's offending.

We acknowledge that it is a complex issue and we acknowledge that there needs to be a collaborative approach to addressing this issue. This is exactly what we are doing. Examples of their work include getting young people back into school, connecting them to drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs and mental health services as well as other supports related to housing, domestic and family violence and disability.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms LUI:** An understanding of complexity of the issue that we are dealing with here is missing from those opposite. They have not mentioned the complex nature of working with these vulnerable kids in the community. The minister and I also took the opportunity to learn about programs being implemented in Mareeba that engage vulnerable young people. We dropped into the PCYC and met with the staff in the community—

**Mr Last** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Burdekin, you are warned.

**Ms LUI:**—who are working hard to address the issue of youth crime and community safety on this issue. I can say that that is nothing that the member for Burdekin would understand. The Pulse Cafe was a local initiative developed from the ground up by a brilliant PCYC local person, Sergeant Mary-Anne West. Mary-Anne and her team developed a program which engages vulnerable young people in Mareeba. These are the types of positive solutions that we need to hear more often because there is so much negativity out there. There is so much negativity about young kids committing crime, but there are not enough solutions offered to address this issue.