




Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2022

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Anderson, Mr B

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.00 pm): I want to give a voice to Barry Anderson of Redcliffe. He is a 58-year-old gentleman who works as a carer under the provisions of the NDIS. Members may ask why I am giving voice to Barry here today, so I will share his story.

On 23 January this year, Barry went out with his friends to celebrate his birthday. After dinner he decided to walk home with his mates along Redcliffe Parade when he was accosted by two Indigenous juveniles demanding cigarettes. When Barry informed the juveniles that he did not smoke or have any cigarettes, he was abused and then hit over the head with a piece of wood. That was not all, because two had become eight to 10 offenders. He had his teeth knocked out and he was assaulted so seriously that he was transported by ambulance to the emergency department at Redcliffe Hospital. He required six stitches in his head and, after two further visits to the emergency department because of the ongoing bleeding to the wound in his head, he required surgery to repair a ruptured artery which was suffered as a consequence of that assault. It is now going to cost him \$18½ thousand to have his teeth repaired. He cannot chew or eat properly; he cannot work or pay his bills. In Barry's words, he is 'not living life'.

This was a serious assault. I have written to the minister today asking for a 'please explain' because it would appear that these juvenile offenders have been cautioned for this offence—that defies belief. There has to be consequences for the actions of these juvenile offenders and, as Barry said, we cannot keep letting them get away with serious assault; someone is going to die. Barry has lost all confidence in everything he does. His life has been forever changed.

This is the reality of what is happening on our streets right across Queensland. This government needs to face the reality that it has a crisis on its hands and people's lives are at risk. I will continue to stand up in this place and give a voice to people like Barry, because they deserve better. They deserve answers and they deserve to be able to walk home at night without fear of being hit over the head with a piece of wood. It is about time that this government started listening to the community, started making the hard decisions and started protecting Queenslanders like Barry Anderson. I met with Barry today and he is still suffering the impact and the effects of that assault, and he will continue to do so for some time to come.