



Speech By  
**Daniel Purdie**


**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

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Record of Proceedings, 8 November 2022

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### Youth Crime

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (2.27 pm): It was Friday, 13 March 2020 when Ben Beaumont was climbing into bed and his wife, Michelle, was up, frantically texting and trying to call their 15-year-old son, Angus, who was overdue coming home. They received a call from the Redcliffe Hospital—a call that every parent or grandparent in this place, across Queensland or across the globe dreads but hopes and prays they never get. It was a call from the hospital to say that their son was being resuscitated and that they needed to get there urgently. There was no explanation as to why. Not long after their arrival they were taken into a room, asked to sign a form to hand Angus's body over to the Coroner and told it was now a police matter. It was some time later that they found out the incident that unfolded leading to this tragedy on Friday, 13 March 2020.

I met the Beaumonts only a few months later in 2020. I have met a lot of victims of crime in my time and a lot of families who have been left distraught by crime. I am in awe of the strength, courage and resolve of Ben and Michelle Beaumont. I was honoured to have them in parliament today as we asked some questions of the government. I will get to that shortly. One question they asked me back then and one question they continue to ask is: could this have been avoided? Could their son still be alive? We know that Angus was not an angel, but he had had no previous dealings with the police. He had no criminal history. He had no previous interactions with the youth justice department or Child Safety. He was a good kid from a good family.

In stark contrast are the two boys who murdered Angus. I will read from the *Courier-Mail*, which outlines some of the highlights of their criminal history. It states—

The boy who inflicted the fatal blow was ... 14 ... has a serious criminal history since age 13 and was found with a kitchen knife at a Redcliffe Skate Park. In January 2020 while on bail for other offences, he committed an armed robbery of a 14-year-old boy. He was on bail for that offending when he killed Angus. He will be released in March 2026, when he is aged 20.

The second teen, then 14 ... On the eve of his murder trial while on bail he stole an Audi A3 and led police on a chase at speed and on the wrong side of the road. His violent criminal history began when he was 11, including setting the Redcliffe Youth Centre ablaze. In November 2018 he was involved in extorting a mother who was pushing a pram on the street—

apparently, with a knife—

threatening to kill her baby. He was on bail for offences of violence at the time.

What alarms me, what alarms the family and what alarms my old colleagues in the police and the community at large is that these young offenders were given bail after committing the murder and were at large in the community. They also continued to breach bail. One of their bail conditions was that they not associate with each other, which they proudly breached and bragged about on social media. I table a picture from their social media accounts that was shared with me by the Beaumonts.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from a Facebook account, undated, in regards to juvenile offenders [1852](#).

One of the bail conditions for these two young offenders, after murdering Angus in cold blood, was that they not associate with each other. They breached that bail condition and were bragging about it. In that post they brag about the murder. I understand that they also did a rap song bragging about the murder they committed. That brought me to ask the Premier a question about that this morning. When the family reported this to the police, reported this to the courts and reported this to the authorities, they were told there was nothing that could be done because breach of bail is not an offence for juveniles in Queensland.

I acknowledge the Premier's answer. She mentioned reversing the onus of proof for the presumption of bail. That was one of the points of the five-point plan that this government announced after the fatal incident at Alexandra Hills on Australia Day last year. Why are they not talking about the other four points? It was announced as a youth crime crackdown. They came in here talking tough on crime. How have the other four points gone? I can tell members that police are chasing the same young offenders every night. We have a revolving door youth justice system. More and more people are becoming victims of crime. We need to do everything we can to support the Beaumont family in their cause. It is something I have been fighting for for a long time. It is one of the reasons I, and my colleagues on this side, ran for parliament.

As we heard from the opposition leader earlier, we will continue to fight for consequences for actions. We need to give the police and the courts the laws and powers they need to keep us safe. The breach of bail offence would on this occasion have given the police or the courts the power to take action, detain these kids and bring them to justice before they committed another offence.

It is also about early intervention. A litany of crimes were being committed. Where was the early intervention? That is something we need to talk about. Please sign the Beaumont's petition that I proudly sponsored.