




Speech By
Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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ADJOURNMENT

Currumbin Electorate, Crime

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.13 pm): This week the spotlight has rightfully been on the disgraceful integrity crisis that has gripped the Premier and her government. But this is only the latest crisis in a long list of failures plaguing the Queensland government. Our community has been battling the crime crisis for a long time now. While our police were having to babysit Palaszczuk's border, crime has spiralled out of control and the blame lays squarely at the feet of this Labor government. Many Currumbin residents are living in fear following a spate of carjackings, hooning and theft. Just this week constituents of mine were traumatised by armed thieves and carjackings. I will not go into the details, but what I do want to highlight is the truly amazing generosity of our local community in supporting the Garnars who were victims of this crime.

Hugh Garnar was held at knifepoint and the family car was written off by police while trying to stop the carjacking. Hugh and his wife Alex have a young son Mason. Mason is four years old and he has been battling a rare form of cancer for four years. Little Mason needs to travel to Brisbane for his cancer treatments and with the family car destroyed the Garnars were left scrambling to find a way to get Mason to his treatments. That is where our community stepped up. The Tweed Heads and Coolangatta RSL used their courtesy bus to get Mason to his medical appointment in Brisbane yesterday. I spread the word that the Garnar family needed a car. The von Bibra team at Robina answered that call. They arranged for the Garnars to have the use of a loan car for as long as they need or until their own car can be repaired or replaced. Mason can now get from the Gold Coast to Brisbane for his cancer treatments. The Garnars said this generosity has restored their faith in humanity. Hugh said, 'I lost all trust the other night and this is opening me up to say there are good people out there.' I put on the record my thanks to the von Bibra team for turning hardship into hope for the Garnars and our community.

In recognition of the crime problems our community is facing, in conjunction with the member for Burleigh I have organised a community crime forum to be held on 9 March. The forum is open to all community members. The details are on my Facebook page and there is also a registration link there. The forum will allow residents to raise their concerns directly with local representatives and allow residents to propose solutions and receive information from senior police. Forums like this bring communities together and are vital to allow our community to voice the severity of the crime problem and give them the opportunity to work together to be part of the solution. There is only so much we as a community can do to solve the problem of crime. It has been allowed to fester as a result of police not doing their ordinary duties because they have been on the border. We really need the state government to step up and give us the resources we need to control crime in Currumbin.