




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2022

MOTION

Hervey Bay, Youth Crime

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.55 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amended motion as put forward by my colleague the Minister for Police and against the motion moved by those opposite. From the outset, I would like to acknowledge, as I always do, that one victim of crime is one too many, and that includes the small business owners of Hervey Bay who have raised issues recently regarding antisocial behaviour. Every Queenslanders has a right to feel safe in their homes, in their businesses and in their communities. Whether it is offending by young people or adults, public safety is paramount and community confidence essential. That is what our government, our frontline police and our youth justice workers are focused on each and every day.

While we focus on holding offenders to account and intervening to try to stop the cycle of crime to keep the community safe, those opposite play politics with this serious issue, over and over again. A press conference does not a plan make. Those opposite repeatedly stand up—whether in Hervey Bay, Cairns, Townsville or wherever else they can get a film crew assembled—to talk about the issue but they never actually articulate an alternative plan. It is now 586 days since the opposition said they were drafting their youth justice plan. Where is the plan? That was 586 days ago. They are all politics, with no plan, no policies and no idea. We know there is no silver bullet. There is no easy fix in respect of crime. We are honest with the community about that, but we do have a plan and we are putting that plan into action—more police on the beat and investing in more diversionary services and intensive interventions—because we have listened to the community and that is what they want to see.

Enough about those opposite, I want to now turn to the member for Hervey Bay. He is someone who advocates strongly on behalf of his local community and his local business owners. When concerns were raised with him recently, he did not call the cameras in and he did not play politics. He picked up the phone and he asked me to come to Hervey Bay, to his city, to meet with local stakeholders on the ground, and that is what I did—because a strong local member actually did something practical and picked up the phone. He asked me to come.

I met with my department and people on the ground, I met with police and I met with the mayor, councillors and the CEO. At the meeting, I listened to the concerns being raised by local stakeholders and the issues being raised by the local community. We know that local communities are often the first to see young people disengaged from school and disengaged from prosocial behaviours and that local communities want to be a part of the solution. Local place based solutions are often the most powerful. The member for Hervey Bay knows that. That is why he did the job of an active, connected and strong local member. He is an excellent local member and I am sure the community are noticing the energy that he brings to the role.

In Hervey Bay, the local youth justice service centre is investing in a range of programs to deter young people from offending and reoffending, and it will keep doing that important work. These programs are about addressing the criminogenic factors that often lead to offending because we want

to stop the cycle. That is what the community wants to see. The member for Hervey Bay has advocated for some additional investment in his community, as good local members do. I have given him the commitment, and I do so again tonight, that I have taken away those concerns, as has my department, and I will come back to him in due course.

While those opposite play politics, they present no policy and no meaningful ideas to address these issues: curfew—rejected; boot camps—failed; breach of bail—absolute FOGWOB. This government's local members are doing the hard yards on the ground to represent the community, while those opposite are just in front of a camera.