




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2022

MOTION

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 and against the original motion put by those opposite. From the outset I acknowledge, as I always do, that one victim of crime is one too many. I acknowledge the voices of those who have experienced crime—the trauma and the financial cost, but particularly and always most importantly the human cost. Every Queenslanders has a right to feel safe in their home and in their community. Whether it is offending by young people or adults, public safety is paramount and community confidence is essential. That is what our government, our frontline police, our youth justice workers, our detention youth workers and our corrective services officers work to achieve and are focused on each and every single day, as are the many community elders and services that we partner with each and every day to intervene with young people.

We know there is no easy fix for a complex issue and crime is incredibly complex. We are honest with the community about that but we are also honest that we have a clear plan. We are putting more police on the beat and we have established a Youth Justice Taskforce under Assistant Police Commissioner Cheryl Scanlon to focus on serious repeat offenders—that is, the small number of young people who are committing most offences. We have included the establishment of 18 multiagency collaborative panels across Queensland to work intensively with that small number of repeat offenders and their families. We are investing in more diversionary services and intensive interventions to stop the cycle of offending because we know that is what the community wants. We have introduced tough new measures, including a presumption against bail, to make it clear to the courts that the community must be kept safe from recidivist offenders.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for McConnel, I ask you to leave the chamber for one hour. You have been warned and you have interjected several times now.

Whereupon the honourable member for McConnel withdrew from the chamber at 5.58 pm.

Ms LINARD: We have done all of this because we have listened to the community and we continue to listen to the community. However, while we focus on holding offenders to account, while we focus on intervening to try to stop the cycle of crime to keep communities safe and while we focus on investing in evidence based programs to address the criminogenic factors that often lead to offending, those opposite play politics with a serious issue. It has been 640 days since those opposite said they would create a crime plan. You cannot help when you have no plan. It is actually more than that, because they did not have a plan when they were in government either. They promised to come up with one but they never did.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Ms LINARD: A press conference, a Facebook post, a parliamentary motion every sitting week does not a plan make. All politics—no plan, no policies and no idea. The community does not want politics; they want action. That is what our government is resolutely focused on. That is what our Premier is focused on.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Toowoomba North, you have made your contribution.

Ms LINARD: That is what the police minister, the Attorney-General and I are focused on. That is what our government is focused on—action and keeping the community safe. We know there is more to do. There is always more to do. The issue is complex. We have to be vigilant and constantly evaluating our approach. While those opposite will continue to offer the people of Queensland absolutely nothing but politics, we will continue to take an evidence-based approach to reducing crime informed by the expertise of the front line and we will listen to the voices of the Queensland community.

(Time expired)