



Speech By  
**Shane Knuth**


**MEMBER FOR HILL**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2022

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Youth Crime**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (2.43 pm): In October the Premier announced the possible construction of another youth detention centre in the Cairns region. Not only is this a waste of money; it will do nothing to resolve the youth crime crisis. The state government continues to dodge and weave its way through dealing with youth crime and has clearly shown it has no idea. It believes that more of the same approach is the remedy. Try telling that to the victims of homes that are ransacked, family members who are bashed or those who have had cars stolen and burnt. This clearly shows that doing the same thing over and over again does not work. Six months ago former police commissioner Atkinson handed down his report on youth justice to the government, which it then sat on and only recently released publicly. Why? Because they needed six months for their spin doctors to whip up an illusion that everything is fine—what youth crime issue? However, no amount of spin can hide the fact that youth offenders are being further criminalised by a broken youth justice system.

It is a simple fact that in 2022 youth are committing more serious and violent offences than ever before. Twenty-five per cent more committed serious offences while on bail, and offences leading to death or harm while on bail increased by 30 per cent. Ninety-five per cent of youth reoffend within the first 12 months after being released from detention centres. I have to say that again: 95 per cent of youths released from detention centres reoffend within the first 12 months. Constructing another youth detention centre is like building a university to secure a degree in criminality. To add further insult, youth are committing crimes to get into detention centres which costs Queensland \$1,500 a day. Then we send them straight back to the same community where the data shows they commit even more violent crimes.

KAP have long proposed stricter youth justice laws be put in place and an alternative sentencing model of relocation sentencing introduced. We have a policy. Relocation sentencing gives magistrates the power to get these youths out of town and send them to remote locations, teach them values, teach them skills such as droving and how to build cattle yards and cattle troughs, along with other proven workable programs. One can call it tough love, but we need stronger laws to act as a deterrent plus alternative options such as relocation sentencing, not weak policies that do not work in the real world.