




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2022

MOTION

Hervey Bay, Youth Crime

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.19 pm): I am very pleased to make a small contribution to the original motion as moved by my colleague the shadow minister for police, the member for Burdekin. When I have done road trips with the member for Burdekin and we talk about his portfolio and he has gone through the different hotspots of Queensland it has come about more than once that Hervey Bay is on his radar.

I was doing a bit of preparation for this speech and I have to confess to the House that I do not know the member for Hervey Bay anywhere near as well as I know other members on the opposite side of the chamber. I have to declare that I owe a great deal of thanks to the parliamentary attendants because outside the chamber they have a sheet with little photos on it and people's names. I could go and have a look there. I found out which of the backbenchers the member for Hervey Bay is. As I will reveal a little later on, when it comes to his particular contribution to parliament let alone youth crime it is virtually invisible. I will go into that in a bit more detail later.

From what I have read and from what I have been told, there seems to be a little bit of argy-bargy between the member for Hervey Bay and the member for Maryborough who seems to get more of the limelight in the local area—much to the chagrin of the member for Hervey Bay. It is all right, there are always silver linings. We will keep on going.

Interestingly, if one google searches 'Adrian Tantari MP youth crime' all one gets is an article about the new police station for Hervey Bay but no acknowledgement of the magnitude of crime as an issue. There do not appear to be any specific media articles of the member for Hervey Bay talking about crime issues. I am not easily distracted so I thought surely there must be something on his social media platforms. There appears to be few if any media or news articles on his website talking about crime or youth crime.

This was not going to put me off, so I kept on looking. On his Twitter account, where he has an audience of 27 followers, there was no mention of youth crime. So I thought, you know what, there is more than one way to skin a cat, so I will keep on looking. I went to Instagram and—I am certain of this—there is absolutely no mention of youth crime because, and I will not table it, the link from his website is broken. Bing bong; no good there.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Are you tabling that document?

Mr MINNIKIN: No, Mr Deputy Speaker. I have many weaknesses, but one thing I am good at is a challenge, so I thought I am going to keep going. I did a key word search on the official parliamentary website. Surely that doyen of record keeping must have something in the member for Hervey Bay's favour. I typed in 'youth crime'. For all of the thousands following us at home, guess what? No search document was found. That is another bing bong. My colleagues can add to the sound effects.

It is almost as though the member for Hervey Bay thinks that if he does not talk about it there is no crime. It is a bit like the member for Miller wishing one of his infrastructure projects would be on time and on budget—fanciful thinking. In the member for Hervey Bay's first speech he committed to 'deliver the services and programs Hervey Bay needs'. Further on in his first speech he said 'where we put people first by keeping them safe'. Good on him for this noble cause.

We need to ask ourselves, in the interests of the motion as moved by the shadow minister: what is going on in Hervey Bay when it comes to crime? Here is a table that I prepared earlier. Let me reiterate what has been said already. In the last month—17 July to 16 August—there have been 14 cars stolen. There have been 40 unlawful entries—more than one a day. There have been 103 other thefts—more than three a day. There have been 40 assaults—more than one a day.

Let us have a look at this chart I have here. It is not the top 40; it is sad reading. Unauthorised motor vehicle offences are up 81 per cent from August 2020 to August 2021. Unlawful entries are up 20 per cent. Other thefts are up 16 per cent. Drum roll because we keep going: assaults are up 42 per cent. Stealing from vehicles is up 57 per cent. It is a bit like New Orleans when small shopkeepers have to board up their small business windows with wooden boards. It is disgusting.