



Speech By  
**Steve Minnikin**


**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2022

**MOTION**

**Youth Crime**

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.30 pm): I firmly believe that probably the greatest duty owed by any state government is to protect its citizens. We have successfully prosecuted a range—a litany—of failures by the current tired third-time Palaszczuk Labor government, but I have to say after listening to some of the contributions tonight there is a misalignment between the head and the heart. I am going to try and redress that over the next 4½ minutes and I am going to talk about two areas dear to my heart—my own south side of Brisbane and another part of Queensland which I will come back to very shortly.

I will never, ever forget—and, mercifully, it was many years ago—the shattered look of my wife and my two kids when we came home only to find the misery that beseeches a lot of Queenslanders: our house had been broken into. I will never, ever forget the look on their respective faces. The words that come to mind is that you felt violated. I will give the member for Keppel a very quick response in relation to one of the things that we have been banging on about for months now—breach of bail, and I will tell members why. Taking a look at the statistics before I talk about some of the human misery stories, in the South Brisbane region—I am comparing 1 January to 30 September last year to the month just ended—unlawful use of motor vehicles is up 17 per cent, unlawful entry is up 22 per cent, assault is up 26 per cent and other theft is up 10 per cent.

Before I move to another part of the state very dear to me which is the Fraser Coast, at the Hervey Bay Bunnings aisle 36 is where it stocks marine ply products. That is the aisle that is of real concern and interest to many small shopkeepers on the Esplanade because at the moment they are paying 202 bucks for a 2.4 x 1.2-metre 18-millimetre piece of plywood, and I will come back to exactly why that is going out the door at a record rate of knots. Is it any wonder when looking at the Hervey Bay-Fraser Coast region I go back to that same snapshot—that is, January to September? During that time the unlawful use of motor vehicles is up 12 per cent in Hervey Bay, assault is up 22 per cent and other theft is up 11 per cent, so that is the sterling efforts of the local member doing a great job there. This is the Fraser Coast, so let us go north to Bundaberg and again look at the same nine-month comparison: unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 55 per cent, unlawful entry is up 10 per cent and assault is up 19 per cent.

The reality is this: members can rise in here and in a five-minute contribution talk about statistics, statistics, statistics. However, let me in the remaining one minute and 40 seconds talk about the human face of this misery. The member for Hervey Bay might like to spend some time in his own electorate to speak with Justin Van Wijk, the owner of Bay Time & Engraving, because Justin would tell the member that he has had two break-ins in the last few months and at least \$20,000 worth of damage done to his stock. Maybe the member for Hervey Bay would like to take some time to listen to Henrik Lin, the owner of Tapas, who has had four break-ins and another estimated 20 grand's worth of damage to his windows

alone—a regular shopper at Bunnings. Maybe the member for Hervey Bay would like to take some time to listen to Kym Riley, the owner of Seega Rent A Car. Kym Riley has had six break-ins and over \$30,000 worth of damage done in the last six months.

Maybe the member for Hervey Bay would like to chat with single mother and proud owner of Daisy's Phone Repairs, Daisy Owen, who was heartbroken that her small business was broken into for the third time in six years—a single mum and small business operator trying to make a go of it on her own—and every month her insurance premiums go up by another \$40 or \$45 each month. Again, sadly she is a regular shopper at Bunnings at Hervey Bay. Maybe also the member for Hervey Bay should spend some time with Chris Bye who owns Hervey Bay's Sundaes @ The Pier. This is the gentleman who has experienced three break-ins in the last 10 months. He, too, sadly is a regular shopper at Bunnings.

*(Time expired)*