




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

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MOTION

Townsville, Youth Crime

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (5.20 pm): We have had eight years of Labor in government. We are in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis. Insurance premiums in North Queensland are already out of control and are increasing. Now we have a crime crisis which is impacting people every single day but for which the government has no solutions on the table. I remind the House of the member for Thuringowa's comments. He said in this House in June 2016—

We know that any repealing of the Newman government Youth Justice Act by our government reflects international evidence that increasing the severity of punishment is ineffective in reducing recidivism, particularly by children and young people.

Yet we see the government continuing to call on the LNP to release our policies. We released a breach of bail policy and the government adopted it. On 10 November 2016 the member for Thuringowa said—

I want a safe community in Thuringowa. My constituents deserve to live in a safe community and be safe in their own homes.

Right now on the member's own Facebook page—I see that he has not yet removed the comment—is the comment—

I've voted Labor all my life. But at the next election I will be considering voting liberal.

This is because of the crime crisis in Townsville.

I draw the House's attention to a tragic circumstance that unfolded in Townsville. I assure the Deputy Speaker that this is not sub judice. I refer to a woman who was kicked in the stomach and hit over the head and whose children's lives were threatened by somebody who entered her home. We talk about break and enters being up 22 per cent in the last 12 months and about assaults being up 14 per cent. These are real victims of crime. The opposition met with victims of crime here at parliament and continued to advocate for them and tell their stories. Members of the government had to be dragged kicking and screaming to meet with victims of crime. Then they made another announcement that we need to continue to support victims of crime and throw more money at the problem but not solve it. We would not need to spend an extra \$200 million supporting victims of crime if the government had addressed crime and were harder on criminals in the first place. It is very frustrating.

We constantly hear from those opposite that the LNP does not have a plan. We do have a plan. We will increase the numbers of police on the beat. We see 202 fewer police. A minister of the government has criticised our hardworking police, who risk their lives every single day upholding the laws of this state and ensuring public safety. They risk their own lives to deal with youth criminals who are out hooning on the Townsville Ring Road at 180 kilometres an hour while under the influence of alcohol. These are real risks not just to community safety but also to police safety.

We have a plan. They are the right priorities for Queenslanders. There has been a lot of focus on the document we have released. I am so pleased that members from across the House have read all of its 44 pages. It is fabulous. Not only does it outline the priorities for Queenslanders; it also tells real Queenslanders' stories. This document is evidence provided by real Queenslanders—people like Paris and Will. The opposition has spent the past three years travelling the state and listening to people—real Queenslanders who have been failed and continue to be failed by this Labor government. I sure hope the Leader of the Opposition is able to bring out an appendix in which we can highlight more Queenslanders' stories. It is tragic that it takes the opposition releasing a document for those opposite to take notice of the real issues and the real priorities affecting Queenslanders right now.