



Speech By  
**Daniel Purdie**


**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 May 2023

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Kimball Family**

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.24 pm): It was on the afternoon of 9 June last year when Annette Kimball last saw her 16-year-old son Ryan alive. When he left home he told his mum he would not be out long and said, 'I love you, Mum.' Not long after, Annette received a call from another mum saying that Ryan had been in a crash. She asked if he was alive and was told, 'I don't know.' On arrival at the scene at Bli Bli she quickly learned that he was not. The vehicle Ryan was a rear-seat passenger in had hit a telephone pole at speeds estimated to be between 160 and 180 kilometres an hour. At that moment Annette's life—along with those of Ryan's father, Graeme, and his brother, Tyson—was destroyed.

Despite pleading guilty to dangerous driving causing death, driving as a learner without supervision, driving without L-plates and using a mobile phone while driving, on 28 April the driver, who was 17 years old at the time of the crash, walked free from the Childrens Court with a wholly suspended sentence, with no conviction recorded. The Kimball family were hoping that the sentence would finally give them some closure—a chance to try to move on with their lives, to close that chapter and start writing a new one. They had spent the previous 11 months in agonising silence as they put their faith in our justice system. Now they rightly feel betrayed.

Graeme and Annette know that nothing will bring Ryan back. They were not hoping for a harsh penalty—just something that would acknowledge their loss, something that might act as a deterrent to other young drivers, something that might prevent another family from experiencing the unfathomable nightmare they are living—at the very least a conviction recorded.

The irony of this appalling situation is that it was the Attorney-General herself who on 15 September 2016 proudly introduced the youth justice amendment bill, which increased the age of who is a child for the purpose of the Youth Justice Act from 16 to 17 years as part of the government's implementation of their soft-on-crime regime. As a direct result, seven years on we are seeing the horrific toll being inflicted on our communities as young, inexperienced drivers charged with life-endangering traffic offences routinely get a slap on the wrist from the Childrens Court. As our state's road toll skyrockets and more and more innocent lives are lost at the hands of 17-year-old offenders, we are now seeing the dire consequences of the legislative reform the Attorney-General so proudly introduced.

This sentence is manifestly inadequate. It does not meet community expectations and it does not send a clear deterrent message to other young drivers. I again call on the Attorney-General to urgently appeal this decision before the appeal period lapses on Friday so that Graeme, Annette and Tyson may finally find some peace in the senseless loss of their beloved son and brother, Ryan.