**Speech By**

# Hon. Di Farmer

**MEMBER FOR BULIMBA**

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2023

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### Police Citizens Youth Clubs

**Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice) (2.21 pm): I have just been out to the PCYC attached to Suncorp Stadium with the Minister for Police where we announced the list of locations to receive extra PCYC funding. What a great program. We know that you have to work in the community with young people who are at risk of entering the youth justice system or to stop them from coming back. We have the harshest laws in the country in terms of youth justice. We have announced two new therapeutic youth detention centres. We want to keep the community safe by putting those young people in detention, but we do not want to see them back in the system.

Early intervention and prevention programs turn the lives of those kids around so that we can keep the community safe. This morning I read out the extremely long list of programs that we have already implemented. PCYC is one of them. It is literally changing people's lives. We have electronic monitoring, we have the vehicle immobiliser program, we have Transition 2 Success, we have intensive case management—many of them already showing very good results. I have said many times publicly that when we evaluate these programs and they are not working we will stop doing them because the community expects us to have the evidence.

I am always keen to hear new ideas. In fact, I am looking forward to meeting members of the Voice for Victims group tomorrow. There will be a rally here and we will be meeting with them to hear their ideas. I am always keen to hear ideas from others. Every time I hear the opposition leader speak I think, 'Okay, well, maybe there are some ideas here.' If he is going to be doing an interview on youth justice I sit at my desk, my staff are ready to go, and then I hear their three-slogan announcement. I cannot call it a policy because they do not have any policies. There are three slogans and there are 13 words in it. We know the community is really concerned about youth crime and the solution of those opposite is 13 words. I listened, ready with my pen, but no, nothing more than rolled gold early intervention programs. We have them already; I read out a list of them.

I was so looking forward to estimates because I thought we might actually have some good questions. I love talking about the results of our programs. I thought we might get an opportunity for the opposition leader to put some ideas to me. He did not even turn up. We were on the third day. He was obviously absolutely exhausted after two days of estimates and was not able to turn up. He goes across Queensland and talks about how youth crime is absolutely their No. 1 priority with his 13-word, three-slogan announcement, but he did not turn up to estimates. We had the shadow Attorney-General and someone who is not even on their frontbench. That is the status that they apply to youth justice.

When one does not have any policies all people can do is think about what you did last time. In the absence of anything else I can only assume that those opposite will do boot camps again. That was the special trick of the deputy opposition leader. They picked someone who was about No. 7 or No. 8 on the list—the people he wanted—and there was an evaluation. It was an absolute shambles and did

not have any impact what whatsoever. In fact, a person was more likely to reoffend if they went to one of those boot camps: 63.5 per cent had reoffended by the time the evaluation was published; something like 90 per cent of them had reoffended by the end of the first 12 months.

We are talking about what works. I would like to hear some policies from the opposition about absolutely anything. We have 13 words now. Maybe we could get another 13 words on new laws. We are happy to work with them. Just a policy, just some evidence, just a plan—anything—and we are happy to work with them.