




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Hervey Bay, Youth Crime

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (3.23 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, sometimes you have the luck of the draw when it comes to who you speak immediately after. I am very glad I am now speaking directly after the member for Hervey Bay because the contribution I am about to give in the next 2½ minutes centres on Hervey Bay itself. I want to talk specifically not about education but about law and order or a distinct lack thereof.

I put it to you, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the first priority of any member of this chamber is to look after the absolute life and property of Queensland citizens. I want to share a story of a gentleman by the name of Paul Redpath, who owns the Pier Village Cafe in Hervey Bay. This is a guy who when I have spoken with him has said, in these exact words, he came from struggle street, he came from public housing and he has had a desperate wish for the last 2½ decades to get him and his family out of where he has come from to have a better life, not just for himself but also for his family. What has he done? He has toiled and he has worked to finally, after 2½ decades, establish his own small business. Well, under the watch of the current member for Hervey Bay and it being a crime-torn area, much to his disdain here is what has happened to Paul and his small business in the last four weeks. It goes something like this.

On 10 April this year, two juvenile offenders—one male and one female—jimmied the front door. Once inside they stole two point-of-sale iPads and alcohol. His insurance excess is \$1,000. The total cost to him was \$1,500.

A couple of weeks later on Friday, 28 April at 8.58 pm—the street was busy at the time, so clearly the offenders did not care—one female juvenile offender made several attempts at smashing the glass sliding door with a brick, succeeded and destroyed the door. Once inside she stole brand new iPads. They had just been replaced, mind you, along with other property. This time he paid the \$1,000 excess to go through insurance.

On 10 May—so we are talking 10 April, 28 April and now 10 May—two juvenile offenders gained entry. This was only last night at around 10 pm on the CCTV. They came back to the shop later. There were about five juveniles in total. They smashed the front window and stole alcohol. I table documents and pictures of what has occurred.

Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs depicting damage to a business [635](#).

Paul has said that the issue is not the service he receives from the Queensland Police Service. What he is most offended about is the fact that the member for Hervey Bay is always missing in action. He absolutely never, ever sees him. This is something that is absolutely a crisis in Hervey Bay—crime.