



Speech By  
**Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 May 2023

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Ministry**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (2.28 pm): I will attempt to inject some sense of decorum into the debate given the disgraceful display by the member for Miller, who never made it beyond the rank of deputy chair in the Brisbane City Council.

**Mr BAILEY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the comments from the member for Clayfield and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I withdraw. The member for Miller never made it beyond being a deputy chair in the Brisbane City Council under the Soorley administration, which was renowned for spending taxpayers' and ratepayers' money on every bit of publicity it could because it was not worth it in the media. It set up Living in Brisbane—never made it. Helen Abrahams got elected. Tim Quinn said to the member for Miller, 'Sorry. old chap. There's no room at the inn for you.' Do you know what he did? He packed his bag, packed up his car and drove off to find himself somewhere in the wilds of North Queensland.

That highlights the chaos and the confusion that is the hallmark of this current government. Nothing exemplifies that more than last week's patently transparent attempt by the ringmaster of this three-ring circus called the Palaszczuk government—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I do not want to listen to 'Beppo the clown' here as well; I already have to deal with the ones here in front of me. Nothing exemplifies that more than last week's patently transparent attempt by the ringmaster of this three-ring circus called the Palaszczuk government to try and con the voting public that shuffling the deck chairs is equal to starting anew when nothing could be further from the truth. This circus is not going to be performing any new acts because the performers are all the same. There is no new talent and what talent there is is not very good. The unions and the factions see to that day in, day out.

When it comes to the areas of law and order and youth crime, the citizens of Queensland—well, at least the law-abiding ones—will have no trouble seeing through the charade. When their cars are stolen, their homes are burgled or, tragically, someone is assaulted or seriously hurt in their home or while out with friends, it will be the same faces with the same feeble excuses in a government that has for eight years set about dismantling the youth justice system. When it comes to youth justice, we now have again an Attorney-General, the state's chief law officer, who even as recently as this morning said that she has no interest in youth justice—not her problem, 'not my responsibility', the recycled Attorney-General said. Rather, the witness protection program is No. 1. She was not so reticent in December 2015. Back then when she was busy watering down the youth justice laws, this is what the Attorney proudly stated—

Repealing these reforms will serve to reduce involvement of children and young people in the justice system rather than lead to their future entrenchment within it.

What have we seen? An almost doubling of the number of repeat recidivist young offenders, from 10 per cent to 17 per cent. What else did she say? She said—

The future of the youth justice system in Queensland is one that values and supports the future of the children and young people it is responsible for as the most effective way to reduce the impact of offending in our communities ... I believe that this bill gets the balance right and so will our youth justice policy ...

There is no mention of the victims of crime in that particular little statement there, and how many plans and policies and backflips and changes have we seen since those words? We have had at last count seven changes of plan and five pieces of legislation all following from eight years of failure starting with the Attorney-General who has been recycled back into that position to make the same mistakes time and time again. When the drugs are being peddled to their kids or businesses are being stood over or thieves are targeting their homes, Queenslanders will be looking at the same Attorney-General who repealed the bikie gang laws with the serious organised crime legislation and who was part of the same government that sat on the review of that legislation since January this year. Attorney-General, release the report into serious and organised crime. What does it say about the effectiveness of the legislation?

When magistrates, judges and lawyers point out the delays in justice because of the failures of the Forensic and Scientific Services lab, they will be looking at the same Attorney-General who as health minister denied for over a year there was even a problem and who even as recently as this morning tried to blame the LNP when the Sofronoff report makes it abundantly clear that the problems with the testing thresholds that led to the major failures started in 2016 under Labor. When Queenslanders look at the failure of youth bail houses and the \$30 million and the kids who are back on the street and the failure to the kids and the public, they will see the same Attorney-General who introduced them. They will see the same Attorney-General who did a backflip on the crime and corruption laws to jail journalists—introduced and then retracted 20 hours later. This is a government with the same chaos and the same crises. When the curtain falls on this circus, it is the same clowns!

*(Time expired)*