




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

Record of Proceedings, 20 March 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Bancroft Electorate, Rolled Gold Programs

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (7.30 pm): I rise to my feet tonight to talk about the rolled gold programs in my community that are keeping families together and keeping young people engaged with school and the community. These rolled gold programs are happening now. The LNP said that they want rolled gold programs out there to divert young people from youth crime, but we are doing it and doing it well in my area.

I will explain a bit about what rolled gold programs should do. They have to be about the following: prevention, which is working with families to get them out of cycles of poverty and homelessness; intervention, so when a person starts going down a path that is harmful, we intervene and divert them to other activities; and, as we heard the Premier say, detention is after that and when we need to have someone in custody to work with them.

I want to also say that there is a connection between domestic violence and youth crime. We need to emphasise that kids who are exposed to domestic violence are much more likely to go down this path. The programs at Deception Bay and North Lakes are playing a huge role in reducing domestic violence and youth crime. They do a lot with prevention and intervention. The Neighbourhood Centre at Deception Bay runs incredible rolled gold programs. The outreach family programs are funded by the department of child safety and they work with families at risk, and over 500 people have been through that program. There is a FFIN program, For Families In Neighbourhoods, which helps families as well, especially those undergoing financial difficulties. In fact over 800 people a year go through the Deception Bay Neighbourhood Centre for financial counselling and budgeting help. This is all about prevention and diversion. It is about helping people and families before they go down those paths. I want to briefly talk about the Y school at North Lakes-Mango Hill. There is \$8 million invested there to help kids who are disengaged. That is a great investment by YMCA in my area. That is rolled gold as well.

All of these programs are interconnected. The funds cannot be taken out of one and then expect everything to keep on rolling. They cannot be separated out. They all help families get back on track when they are undergoing incredible stress. These programs change the behaviour of young people, including schoolkids, and it helps them keep away from a path of crime. All of these programs and the people who run them are connected and networked. They are running rolled gold programs. These are rolled gold programs that are already happening. They help prevent domestic violence and they help prevent youth crime. They are out there now but they would be under threat if the LNP ever got into government. We know the LNP cut and they will do it again. When will they reveal what programs are on the chopping block in my community? They are ignorant of what rolled gold programs are.