



Speech By  
**Daniel Purdie**


**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 April 2024

**MOTION**

**Crime, Media Reporting**

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (5.59 pm): I am not really sure where to start after some of these contributions, but I might start with a quote that I understand was made famous by American author Zig Ziglar who said you cannot solve a problem until you acknowledge that you have one and accept responsibility for solving it. Herein lies the problem because from the top down, as we know and as has been reconfirmed in this chamber this evening, this government thinks the youth crime crisis gripping Queensland is a media beat-up and is perception. We heard it again today from the member for Capalaba who talked about the 'little youth crime issue' that we politicise. I would like the Field and Leadbetter families to hear that. He stood up with them and then shortly after called the youth crime crisis in Queensland and in his electorate a media beat-up. I for one will not be associating myself with any comment in this place by this member or any political process, be it a committee or otherwise, that suggests crime is a perception or a media beat-up and all we need to do to fix the problem is curtail the media's reporting of it. It is not a perception or a media beat-up. Every statistic across the board shows it. Those opposite like to cherrypick statistics to try to paint this in a blue light.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr PURDIE:** I hear the laugh. Those opposite trot out statistics about unique offenders with a proven offence before the Childrens Court, failing to acknowledge the 15,000 offences children have been cautioned for and failing to acknowledge that the clear-up rate is on the decline. Police are struggling to put people before the court and get justice for victims of crime across Queensland. Anyone can find out by googling the QPS crime stats that from 2012 to 2014 the number of victims in Queensland reduced by 30,000. By the end of 2023 that had increased by over 130,000 victims of crime—an increase of 60 per cent. One does not need to be a criminologist. Those opposite talk about an increase in population and other stats that they try to cherrypick. There is no doubt crime has exploded.

Population across Queensland is up about nine per cent since 2015. The number of victims is up 60 per cent, in the order of 130,000 victims of crime, reaching an all-time record high. Our police have acknowledged on the record that by the end of 2023 crime was at an all-time record high in Queensland. Still we have members coming in here talking about 'little youth crime issues' that we are trying to politicise. The issue goes right to the top. Just the other day in an opinion piece in the paper we heard the Premier of this state admit that they had vacated the field when it comes to youth justice, but then he clarified on his feet in parliament on Tuesday that he was talking about the politics, which just goes to show this is a government that is more concerned about how things look than how they are. They are more concerned about politics than people. You cannot fix a problem until you know you have got one.

I turn my attention now to the member for Nicklin and his contribution. He had five minutes to talk about his record in Nicklin, but all he could do was trot out all sorts of different statistics. In the last 12 months in Nicklin and across the Sunshine Coast you are more likely to be a victim of crime. You are 26 per cent more likely to have your car stolen, you are 25 per cent more likely to have your house broken into and you are 19 per cent more likely to have your property stolen. Those opposite are now advocating for a police chopper. I can tell you, Mr Speaker, the only difference between a chopper and a police chopper is the copper who is in it, and it requires two. It requires a mission commander in the passenger seat and a trained observer in the back and what they do is they communicate with police on the ground. In Nicklin and on the Sunshine Coast we are down 15 police at the moment. In the minister's own electorate in Moreton Bay they are down 40 police. But here they are announcing a police chopper when they do not have the police on the beat to respond to the two police that they would need to find from somewhere else to put in the helicopter.

Which brings me to my last point: this minister has lost all credibility when it comes to police. Our police have been calling for back-up for years. He has promised police and he has not delivered them. There are 1,521 fewer police now than he promised in 2020. In answer to a question yesterday he said that the LNP never funded a police chopper when we were in government. That is not true. I am happy to table documents from the 2014 and 2015 budget papers that showed the LNP did fund—

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, regarding funding relating to police helicopter services and speed and red light cameras [603](#).

*(Time expired)*