




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2024

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Youth Crime; HerKind Project

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.06 pm): The crime crisis is real. The crime crisis in my community of Cherbourg is real. It has reached breaking point. Mayor Elvie Sandow, CEO Zala and councillors reached out to me yesterday by way of a phone call out of desperation for what is going on in Cherbourg. The government is not listening. The government is not helping them. Crime is out of control. I will tell the House what has happened there just in the last few days alone. Some little thugs out on bail have stolen the local sports complex bus. They have driven it around and around town—

Mr BROWN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I take your point of order, I am going to ask the member: can you assure the House that this matter is not sub judice?

Mr BROWN: They are out on bail.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, they are out on bail. I will take that point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is sub judice.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Therefore, it may be, so I will withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: For the record, I take the points of order. There was no point of order taken. I remind all members of the House to be very mindful of sub judice.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will not talk about those matters. What I will talk about is the crime that has been going on. A council bus has been stolen. Council chambers have been broken into. We do not know who by because no-one has been arrested for those incidents. Cherbourg radio station has been broken into. The TAFE and Gundoo Early Childhood Centre have been broken into. The Cherbourg State School has been broken into. The Cherbourg Ration Shed has been broken into. The Cherbourg council chambers have been broken into.

Mayor Elvie Sandow has rung me out of desperation. The CEO of Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council has rung me out of desperation. Here is what they have said in the media: 'The system is not working.' They have said—and I am happy to table this—

We just want the government to listen to us. The system is not working ... the bail system, the court system is not helping our community.

That is exactly why we need to make sure that detention as a last resort is scrapped from the system—to protect that vulnerable community. Mr Zala said—

They're not even stealing any stuff. They're just breaking in ... and messing our buildings.

...

I think the government needs to look at the whole justice system. It's not working in the whole State.

Tabled paper: Article from southburnett.com.au online, dated 6 March 2024, titled 'The justice system isn't working' [331](#).

The system is broken. It is about time the government stopped talking and running the government by press release and actually did something on behalf of our communities.

In my last 30 seconds, I really want to give a big shout-out to HerKind Project. I cannot wait to get there on Friday night and celebrate International Women's Week right there in Kingaroy. I want to give a big shout-out to all of the amazing young women—Caylen Tunstall, Jordie Green, Greer Shephard, Mandy Gormly, Jen Renshaw and Jodie Bell—who are putting on this fabulous event. It is sold out. Over 250 tickets have been sold. I cannot wait to join you on Friday night.