




Speech By
Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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MOTION

Crime, Media Reporting

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.47 pm): We have just heard from the member for Capalaba. Did I hear him correctly when he used the phrase ‘little youth crime stories’? That is belittling the issue of youth crime by the member for Capalaba, who is on the public record as calling the youth crime crisis a media beat-up. It appears the member for Capalaba has no shame.

Mrs Gerber: Learnt nothing.

Ms SIMPSON: He has learnt nothing. He continues to belittle the victims of youth crime by mislabelling what is a youth crime crisis. This is happening across the team of Labor. This is beyond just the Premier, who admitted that Labor had vacated the field on crime, on youth crime. Yet we are still hearing the members of the backbench stand up in this place and defend the government’s record. I heard the member for Nicklin, who has still been attacking voters and the media in the last year and a half—and the media even more recently—defending this Labor government’s appalling record on crime and appalling record on youth crime.

We know that the member for Nicklin is an apologist for this government, but he is betraying his community. He is betraying those who are seeing things they never expected to see happen in their community. Just the other day on TV he was once again blaming others in the media, saying that their reporting was ‘scandalous’. At a time when people want the issue to be taken seriously, he attacks the media. This foolish member of parliament has been intent on blaming others online. He has quite a record of attacking others.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that was unparliamentary language that is unbecoming to this debate.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I am taking advice in relation to that, thank you. Resume your seat. Member for Maroochydore, you have used unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Ms SIMPSON: I withdraw. I will quote from one of the social media posts of the member for Nicklin, who has let his community down by attacking others, attacking the media and not standing up for his community. In this recent post he basically attacks the media by saying—

It’s a shame that a certain profession has disregarded its role as the fourth estate.

He tries to describe the fact that he does not control the narrative and I know the member for Currumbin referenced that before. I table a copy of his post.

Tabled paper: Extract of comments from a social media account of the member for Nicklin, Mr Rob Skelton MP, regarding diversionary programs [601](#).

The member has a record of getting into trouble for attacking others online. I also table these social media posts. I have tried my best to black out the unparliamentary language that, believe me, is a lot more serious than words we are not allowed to use in here. I have done my best to block them out

but there is a series of not just unparliamentary words; these are things that you would not expect to hear on the street yet this man, who represents Nicklin, is abusing voters and abusing the media. He does not listen to his community.

Tabled paper: Bundle of media articles relating to comments made on social media by the member for Nicklin, Mr Rob Skelton MP [602](#).

Let us look at what has been happening in the member's community. The member defends his government but he will not recognise what the Labor government did when it came to power in 2015. They watered down the youth justice laws and now we see the results playing out in the community as hardened youth criminals who were in the system move into the adult criminal world. They learned the tricks of the trade in regards to crime because they were not appropriately dealt with earlier.

In many communities across Nicklin there are fewer police on the beat—actual police. Do not mislead people by saying 'approved numbers' but talk about actual police. I heard the member talking about how wonderful it is that we have this and that in the Nicklin electorate. He did not mention that there is no permanent police officer stationed in Kenilworth. In fact, the grass is so high you would have to get out the Victa mower to find the front door, I believe, because that station does not have a permanent officer. The police who work on the ground have to travel great distances, without backup, to deal with the increasing number of offences. In Nicklin, what are those offences? In the Nambour division, there is a 177 per cent increase in unlawful use of a motor vehicle offences. In Nambour, the number of unlawful entry offences has increased. For assault, there has been an increase of 255 per cent. That is disgraceful—

(Time expired)