



Speech By  
**Jimmy Sullivan**


**MEMBER FOR STAFFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 April 2024

**MOTION**

**Crime, Media Reporting**

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (5.53 pm): Considering her history as a former Speaker, what we have seen from the member for Maroochydore is her absolute disdain for this House as she continues to disobey rulings from the chair. As I have said before, the Leader of the Opposition has a great sense of humour when he gives her a title with the word ‘integrity’ in it.

I rise to support the amended motion moved by the member for Bulimba. When it comes to tonight’s debate, it is concerning to see that the member for Kawana is not treating the youth justice issue with the dignity that it deserves. He did not put his name down to speak on the motion but wanted to play childish games on what I consider to be a real issue. He has not changed. The hypocrisy of those opposite, including the member for Kawana, given what happened when they were in government, is astonishing, particularly when it comes to their interaction with the media around the criminal justice system. As the first law officer of this state at the time, the member for Kawana leaked confidential discussions with a head of jurisdiction about future judicial appointments at the highest level. Later, he wrote to the then opposition leader, who we know is a three-term premier—

**Mr Crandon:** Three term?

**Mr SULLIVAN:** Yes. She won three elections. I thank the member for that interjection.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This a run down memory lane but it has nothing do to with the motion or the amendment.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** On the point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): I will allow some commentary on the point of order before I rule.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I explicitly said that this was in relation to the involvement of those opposite with the media when it comes to the criminal justice system, which is at the core of what this motion is about.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, that is substantive. I will take some advice. Member for Clayfield, I will allow a certain degree of latitude around setting some context in the debate. I note your many historical narratives in this place, which I always enjoy I have to say. I call the member for Stafford but I will be keeping a close eye on relevance.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** No-one in this place is surprised that the member for Clayfield is embarrassed about those 2½ years so I take his interjection.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask him to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I withdraw. Before the interjection, I was talking about the interaction between the LNP and the media when it comes to the criminal justice system. The member for Kawana wrote to the then opposition leader about consultation on the vacant chief justice position and that consultation was leaked to the media. I am not going to be lectured to by those opposite about what people—

**Ms Bates:** That's a long bow. That is a long bow.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** Keep it coming. When it comes to the criminal justice system, as the minister outlined this morning, the member for Kawana spent \$15,000 on a chopper ride to Lincoln Springs boot camp. If anyone in the House has not seen the footage, they should do themselves a favour and look it up. It is a try-hard *Days of Our Lives* video as they look longingly into the distance. Actually, I withdraw that. I do not want to insult *Days of Our Lives*.

**Ms Richards:** *The Bold and the Beautiful*.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** *The Bold and the Beautiful*, perhaps. That is his view of chopper safety in North Queensland. I compare that to this government, which is investing in a new chopper for North Queensland. Those opposite made moves to shut down the Townsville police academy campus, located just north of Townsville. They made officers pay for their own body worn cameras and protective vests. I compare that to what this government is delivering.

The genuine importance I place on the youth justice issue is not just because of my recent portfolio role. As early as my first speech I said that it is a passion issue of mine. I said that there was a lot of name calling and a lot of immaturity when it comes to the debate around these issues. At the time I said, when we are talking about people in the youth justice system, wouldn't it be great if, in 10 or 15 years time, the name that we call them is 'taxpayers' and that they are productive members of our community, contributing and looking after their families. That is what we need. If we can agree that that is the end goal then let us have a mature and constructive discussion in this House, through our committees, through government and through the media about how we get from here to there. That should not be beyond people elected to this House.

**Mr Bennett:** You can't even debate the motion. You change the motion every time.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I think it was the member for Burnett who just interjected. When it comes to social media, he was lecturing us about what people put on social media when he tweeted that he thinks nurses are paid too much; that the problem with the health system—

**Mr BENNETT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence. It is not correct and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member has asked you to withdraw. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I withdraw. I do not have the exact tweet in front of me. I understand that the quote was that it was overarching pay or a drag on the system—shackling the health system. This is frontline workers. That is their record on social media. I will stand by ours any day of the week.