




Speech By
Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 18 April 2024

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Youth Justice

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.37 pm): This state government does not care about a bipartisanship approach and shutting down the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee proves it. It is not bipartisanship if committee members have to vote with the government or else they are sacked. The LNP members of this committee were still working collaboratively when this government decided to shut the committee down. We voted to keep it going. We wanted a genuine inquiry because that is what Queenslanders deserve.

We only got through a third of the committee report. When you look at what was released in the report you can see the progress that was being made. Look at recommendation 1: the LNP recommended that the state government rewrite the Youth Justice Act. Labor wanted another review of the Youth Justice Act. We landed on the suggestion that the youth justice committee recommend that the state government, in fact, reform the Youth Justice Act. Progress was being made. Instead, Labor decided to recommend further reviews. We recommended that detention as a last resort be removed, that we rewrite the sentencing principles in the charter of youth justice, that we make victims' rights paramount—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I am sorry but we do not have any time on the clock.

Mrs GERBER:—and that we reverse the onus in section 282A to take the burden off victims. Instead, Labor recommended that there be further reviews of these sections. I am confident that if the government had allowed the committee to continue to work we would have come to a bipartisan approach on these recommendations also. However this government decided to shut the committee down—

Mr HART: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I point out that the member for Logan is calling the member for Currumbin a liar.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, if there was unparliamentary language used, I ask that you withdraw.

Mr POWER: I withdraw the unparliamentary language.

Mrs GERBER: The LNP members of this committee were constructively putting through recommendations, and recommendation 1 proves what we could have achieved. However, this state government does not care about bipartisanship. If they did, they would have allowed the committee to continue to do their work.

This report is damning for the government. It talks about gagging the media, and the LNP members were warning the state government against that. We were working towards recommendations to warn the state government against their proposal to regulate traditional media, but what do we see? This state government has dissolved the committee. They have dissolved the committee because they wanted to use it for their own political agenda.

Mr HARPER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member continues to say 'this government has dissolved'. It was the House that dissolved the committee.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Member, I do believe that the Speaker did make—
Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, if I can just have some silence. Member for Currumbin, it was stated this morning by the Speaker that the House determined that, just to correct you.

Mrs GERBER: Thank you for your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker. The House determined it would dissolve the committee and the government used their numbers to force that vote; to stack that vote. When we are talking about this committee, I feel most disappointed for the victims of crime, the organisations and the people who came before the committee and made submissions to the committee in the hope that real action might be taken and the hope that it might actually be bipartisan. Instead, this government has let them down. They have shut the committee down before their work was done. This government should be ashamed of themselves. It was not a bipartisan committee. This government never should have tried to gag the media.