Speech By

Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MOTION

Crime, Media Reporting

Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (6.04 pm): I rise to support the amendment. I will start by acknowledging that it would be improper and incorrect to suggest that any member of this House does not support community safety. It would be improper and incorrect to suggest that any member of this House does not support victims of crime and the supports necessary to assist victims of crime in recovering from a traumatic, terrible event that has happened in their lives. Some of the contributions that we have heard today quite frankly are repugnant and undignified because, although we may approach this complex challenge differently, we have a unified resolve, and that is community safety and support for victims.

This government takes community safety concerns seriously. We have strengthened laws. We have boosted resources for the Queensland Police Service. We have boosted resources for early intervention and prevention services. When it comes to boosting and strengthening laws, we have introduced wanding powers, we have strengthened laws for organised crime gang responses by police, we increased penalties and sanctions for child killers and serial killers, we brought in a presumption against bail for youth offenders, and we brought in breach of bail in the Bail Act for youth offenders for the first time in Queensland history. This is what this government has done. We also reversed that abhorrent action by those opposite to reduce the monitoring periods for child sex offenders and we went further. We lengthened the periods to ensure that those monitoring periods for child sex offenders are the longest in the nation.

We hear those opposite make observations and contributions about what they think is the appropriate course. That is the right and entitlement of every member of this House. It is also the right and entitlement of members on this side of the House to advocate for their communities and approach this very complex issue. I want to call out the advocacy for their communities from the members for Capalaba, Bundaberg and Nicklin. They meet with members of their communities concerned about this issue. They meet with victims of crime and they advocate on behalf of them. As a result of their advocacy, there has been significant investment in their communities. There has been physical investments like new police stations, upgraded police stations, upgrades for PCYCs, more resources for the PCYC program—the member for Capalaba spoke about the After Dark PCYC program which is delivering alternate activities for young people at night-time—and investment for police resourcing and the front line. Community safety is an important issue that the government is committed to. Every member of this House shares the same resolve so it is undignified for those opposite to suggest otherwise. We might attack this issue from alternate perspectives, but we nonetheless care about community safety, care about victims and everything we do is committed to the goal of enhancing community safety and protecting victims.

The member for Ninderry made some remarks about cautioning. I note that the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee has made some observations about that. I refer to the committee transcript where someone said, 'I do know it is successful, as 80 per cent or more never reoffend.' That was the member for Ninderry.

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Ninderry will cease his interjections. You have just had your time. It is the minister's time now.

Mr RYAN: Just a few moments ago in his contribution, the member for Ninderry cast aspersions about that activity, yet in the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee he contradicts himself. The member for Lockyer said—

The diversionary processes that you do in the police see about 91 per cent of cautioned offenders never offend again.

I am not criticising those remarks; I am highlighting those remarks. I criticise the hypocrisy of the member for Ninderry in casting aspersions on those processes in his contribution only a few moments ago, suggesting that those police officers who in their discretion choose to caution someone have for some reason—

(Time expired)