



Speech By  
**Hon. Michael Healy**


**MEMBER FOR CAIRNS**

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## MOTION

### Crime Statistics

 **Hon. MP HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Sport) (5.52 pm): Once again we find ourselves here having a discussion about something for which there are no facts and no figures—

**Mr Nicholls:** It's what you're paid to do, but don't worry: it won't be for too much longer.

**Mr HEALY:** Your margin is not that big either, buddy. When we look at the—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Comments will come through the chair.

**Mr HEALY:** When we look at where we are, it is very important to note that we have one side that thinks locking kids up is going to be the solution. There is no evidence anywhere to support that. When I talk to people in the street when I am doorknocking and when I talk to experts in this space they will tell you that that does not work. I will tell members what does work: investing in things like Midnight Hoops, Johnathon Thurston Academy's programs, designed to enhance life skills for at-risk youths, and Club and Culture at all Police Citizens Youth Clubs with their after-school drop-in activities, structured sport and active recreation. These are fundamental programs that get to the core of the issues.

The Kang Kang Youth Leadership Team in Aurukun has young community leaders planning and implementing PCYC activities for the broader community. It is working and we are seeing the numbers of crimes decrease in these communities because of these programs. In Cairns and Aurukun the PCYC's Blue Edge is an eight-week program to empower youth. This has resulted in eight male youths returning to school who previously were totally disengaged. These are the sorts of things that you do. In terms of locking people up, you have to be joking. Friday Night Lights is a safe place for youths in and around Cairns and other areas throughout Queensland up until 9 pm where they can interact. They can enjoy the company of those around their same age but, more importantly, there will be police and other people there to enjoy their company.

The Youth Support Service provides individualised case management support for at-risk kids from eight years of age to 21 years of age. The Duke of Edinburgh program is a three-tier system that provides young people with opportunities to volunteer for sport and other activities. It is the interaction that they are needing. It is the attention that they are needing. This is what you do to start driving it down. You start implementing and investing in these things because this is the science and this is what the experts are telling us. Changing Gears and Breaking the Cycle at all PCYCs provide supervision to enable youths to obtain drivers' licences which, in some areas, particularly regional areas, is absolutely key to any development for those young boys and young girls. Deadly and Active in Yarrabah promotes youth engagement through organised sports activities. A consultation process was undertaken in Yarrabah where the community gave feedback. As a result of the feedback, these programs were put into place.

More importantly, when the LNP was last in government it oversaw the cutting of 110 senior police and all up more than 300 police personnel were cut. The QPS strategic review, the Greenfield review, found that there was a reduction of 500 staff members—full-time positions—in 2012 and 2013 which significantly contributed to administrative and support service activities being passed to police. I bet that was popular! The LNP failed to fully fund any new police positions. The then president of the Queensland Police Union, Mr Leavers, said—

I was involved with the police numbers in 2012, and sadly they were not fully funded. That meant that the police budget had to be stripped everywhere.

This is the solution of those opposite, and here is another one: they took police away from frontline roles to work in a complicated and inefficient emergency services bureaucracy which they created. They cut police training, reduced firearm training and forced police to pay for their own body worn cameras. What a wonderful group! They are not investing in kids and they are not investing in police. Their record is very clear for the people of Queensland to see. The LNP's 2012-13 budget slashed funding for new police equipment from \$77.5 million to \$53.8 million—the lowest in three years. These are the facts and they remain undisputed. Those opposite do not have any options and they do not have a plan. Rather, they have some glib lines.