




Speech By
Hon. Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 23 May 2024

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Victims of Crime, Support

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.15 pm): This week we passed the Corrective Services (Promoting Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill—a bill that puts victims first by minimising the need for Queenslanders to repeatedly tell their experience when their perpetrator's custody arrangements change, provides more safeguards for the personal information and security of victims, provides the ability to restrict prisoners' phone call privileges when they are used to breach domestic violence orders or make calls involving violence, coercion, harassment or threats, and gives new powers to the Parole Board that enables it to extend the maximum period of restricting applications for parole after a parole refusal.

The safety of the Queensland community is not negotiable. It will always come first—never last—under the Miles government. These laws will also enshrine a victims of crime voice on the Parole Board, ensuring that victims' lived experiences are always part of decision-making. There has been a victims representative on the Parole Board for years. The member for Burdekin—obviously this is something new to him—may not appreciate the valuable contribution to the Parole Board that victims representatives such as Brett Thompson, the CEO of Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group, make and have made over many years—I see he is screwing his face up right now—but we on this side of the House do.

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

Ms BOYD: The LNP is not an ally to victims or victim support groups. It closed DV shelters, it cut funding to Victim Assist Queensland and it cut funding to victim support groups. What is worse is that it effectively gagged victims agencies from speaking up and advocating to government. I note that a number of victims groups have spoken publicly about their experiences and provided suggestions on how victims can be better supported. I truly thank them for their advocacy but note that, under an LNP government, their actions would have resulted in the LNP terminating the funding agreements that they had. The LNP would rather back multinational resource companies than victims of crime and the organisations that represent them. As always, the divide between what those opposite say and what they do is insurmountable.

This side of the House will always hold offenders to account and will always provide opportunities for rehabilitation, but we will make sure that victims are supported and that their voices are heard. In stark contrast, cuts and privatisation are in the LNP's DNA and I fear that that is what it has planned. I have heard from stakeholders right across the state on multiple occasions that the LNP is openly talking about privatising our prisons again. The shadow minister has even been asking me questions on notice about staff vacancies, and it makes me wonder why. I fear that those opposite are already drawing up that list of cuts, and they should come clean to Queenslanders. The shadow police minister has already belled the cat—community safety for them is only a weapon they use for their own political purpose.