



Speech By  
**Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2024

**MOTION**

**Crime Statistics**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (5.06 pm): This 10-year-old, tired Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government has failed Queenslanders and it has failed my community of Clayfield. For almost a decade now Labor has systematically watered down the laws, and this has led to a generation of young offenders who believe they are untouchable. At the same time this Labor government has failed when it comes to rehabilitation, and it started with the failed policies that were introduced in 2016 by the now Attorney-General, the then attorney-general.

The Palaszczuk-Miles governments have: legislated detention as a last resort for the shortest and most appropriate period; abolished breach of bail; legislated restrictions on publishing identifying particulars of young people in the youth justice system; reinstated sentence review; abolished the sentencing option of boot camps; made childhood findings of guilt for which no conviction was recorded inadmissible in court when sentencing for adult offences; closed the Children's Magistrates Court when hearing all youth justice matters; changed the law to enable more young people to be granted bail; and legislated that electronic tracking devices cannot be imposed on a child. They did all of that in the first six months of coming into office.

After this legislative featherbedding of young criminals what does Queensland have to show for it? More victims and more crime in 53 of 55 police crime category data points. In my electorate of Clayfield, and despite the best efforts of our hardworking but short-staffed police, the statistics on car theft alone are sobering. I notice the minister did not mention car thefts in Brisbane, which is the biggest area for car theft. In a decade car thefts in the Hendra division have gone from 392 in 2015-16 to 712 in 2023-24. That is almost double the number of car thefts. People in Clayfield are worried and fearful. Not a week goes by that I do not receive emails and calls about cars being stolen and homes being broken into. Only on Monday I received this email message—

I am a retired Australian Army officer having served nearly 22 years including multiple deployments to East Timor, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Israel. I retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after completing my final appointment as a Battalion Commander.

Upon my retirement, my wife and I made the decision to buy our forever home in Brisbane and after a prolonged search settled on our 1940 Queenslander. We loved Hendra and absolutely loved the thought of raising our children in southeast Queensland. However, after the events of the past few years we no longer feel that way.

Last Friday night, in what was the eighth occasion in recent years, we were targeted at home by a gang of criminals.

The details are that at around 12.15 on Saturday morning both were awake and the TV and inside and outside lights were on when my constituent saw someone trying to break in via the back glass sliding doors. This was while they were awake. Because of his military experience, he got up and tried to chase the intruders away. The intruders jumped the fence into the neighbour's property to escape. As he gave chase to the front of his house, he was confronted by two car loads of criminals from the same gang. Three men immediately alighted from one of the vehicles and began advancing towards him on foot screaming obscenities like, 'We're gonna kill you, you C,' and then yelling to each other, 'Get the gun,' and 'Grab the effing knives. Let's kill this person.'

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. I will take some advice. Member, even when you are quoting from material, I think it is clear that you are alluding to language that is unparliamentary. I would ask you to withdraw.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I withdraw. They said, 'We're going to kill you, you so-and-so.' The drama went on and ended with one of the cars being driven directly over the kerb at my constituent and his neighbour, who only survived by leaping out of the way, before the cars did four laps of the block with bottles and cans being thrown as they sped past, before driving off. That is a terrifying story. This is a veteran who served his country, fought terrorism and ended up as a lieutenant colonel. Here is the consequence, as bad as that story is. He said—

This isn't how it is supposed to be. My wife and I have worked hard all of our lives. We have served and in the case of my wife, continue to serve our country.

And yet the Miles/Palaszczuk Labor governments have abandoned citizens like us, in favour of protecting the criminals who are tearing our communities apart.

Last Friday was the last straw for my family. I did not fight terror overseas to have my family subjected to terror in our own home.

This state has gone mad and I cannot stay silent any longer.

I have spoken to that constituent. He is selling his house and moving to New South Wales. That is the real cost of this lazy, long-term Miles government's soft-on-crime attitudes. People are calling for it: Adult Crime, Adult Time; restore consequences.

*(Time expired)*