




Speech By
Hon. Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2025

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (3.04 pm): I rise to make a contribution to this report. I want to acknowledge the work of the committee in their interrogation of the report. I also want to acknowledge Luke Twyford and the work of the Queensland Family and Child Commission. We know the important work they do. In speaking to this report, once again I see a long list of former child safety ministers and members on that side coming into the chamber to talk to this report. I hope they are coming in to take responsibility for 10 years of overseeing a broken child safety system. I do not have long enough to go through the Mason Jett Lees and the others and the long list of child safety ministers. I am happy to follow a former child safety minister who was—

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker—relevance, your ruling?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Member for McConnel, I have been listening clearly. Thank you, I will look after the order in the House. I do not believe you have any point of order.

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, my point of order is on relevance in case you did not hear.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understand. I do not believe there is any point of order. The minister is being directly reflective of the time of the report and the ministers involved at that time.

Mr PURDIE: I return to the report about child safety and the great work that Luke Twyford and his team do. The report is a dire indictment on those opposite. This report covers the entire 12-month period when they were in government. There is a long list of failures that they oversaw and there were a number of ministers from that side, a revolving door of child safety ministers who never took responsibility for some of those things.

I remember the Mason Jett Lee matter clearly as frontline colleagues of mine were involved. The child safety minister at that time took no responsibility. They threw the frontline workers under the bus—frontline workers who were understaffed and overworked at the time. No-one took responsibility and that is what this report is about: taking responsibility. I notice some of those opposite still have not taken responsibility like the member for Bulimba, who also spoke on this committee report. She has never taken responsibility for how they proudly watered down the youth justice laws which led to kids in watch houses, which led to the broken watch house system covered in this report. Who could forget that same minister on *Four Corners* saying that 90 young people were held in maximum security in the Brisbane City Watch House, which is a—

Mrs McMahon: How many are there now?

Mr PURDIE: It rarely gets over three; I welcome the question. When those opposite were tearing each other apart about supporting the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws the same minister was saying, 'Where are you going to put them all?' We said a harsh penalty will act as a strong deterrent. Now, on average, there are fewer kids in watch houses than there were for 10 years under those opposite. The report states it. Those opposite created the watch house crisis. They created the watch house crisis and they did nothing about it. When are they going to come in here and take responsibility for watering down the laws—

Mr McCALLUM: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance and I reference your rulings relating to timeframes. The minister has been speaking in relation to the actions of his government, which is outside the timeframe of the report that is being debated today. It is on relevance.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Ninderry was being directly responsive to an interjection that he took and a question from the member for Macalister. As such, he is being relevant because he was responding to an interjection.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House. One moment and I will take some advice. I have received some further advice. This report also includes watch houses and responses regarding those matters. Again, if all members talk to the 2023-24 report and the importance of that report going forward they will be on safe ground.

Mr PURDIE: There are detailed tables in this report about kids in watch houses and it is an indictment on those opposite. When are the former ministers who were responsible going to take responsibility? I was directly talking about what led to it, as addressed in this report, and I took an interjection. When I was speaking about 90 young people held in the Brisbane City Watch House—a maximum security watch house—I was referring to a time under the former minister and there was an interjection asking how many there are now. Today in Queensland there are three children in watch houses. I am happy to take further interjections. When are those opposite going to take responsibility? That is what this report is about, and it is dire reading. Let us talk about domestic and family violence.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, order!

Mr PURDIE: The report also talks about—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, you are warned.

Mr PURDIE: The report also talks about the Child Death Review Board. It talks about domestic violence and drug use and the fact that the overwhelming number—more than half—of children whose death was reviewed by the board were in instances of domestic violence. When the now commissioner became the commissioner, he publicly called on the former government at the time to give the police what they needed to help better protect vulnerable victims of domestic violence. Those opposite put their heads in the sand as calls for service for domestic violence went through the roof. When are they taking responsibility for that?

Another alarming aspect is that a third, as assessed for the report, of the cases that the commission assessed of young children who died—32.6 per cent or similar—had parents who were addicted to or had used drugs such as methamphetamine. Those opposite—just like they proudly watered down the youth justice laws not that long ago—proudly watered down the drug laws in this state because they said it was a health issue, but this report shines a light on it. The overwhelming number of young people who die in the care of their parents or guardians die because their parents or guardians are addicted to drugs, and that is something we are going to fix.

(Time expired)