




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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**MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER (ADULT CRIME, ADULT TIME) AMENDMENT
BILL**

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.47 pm): I want to thank the previous speaker for outlining the situation for Chantelle that happened just a month ago. Any victim of crime is a tragedy, but I am sure that Chantelle is even more disappointed because she was led to believe by the Premier of this state that these problems would be finished by Christmas and that these laws would be in place.

Government members interjected.

Mr J KELLY: I am not taking any interjections.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member.

Mr J KELLY: These laws were supposed to be in place by November last year, but here we are again fixing up botched LNP laws.

I want to make a few general remarks. All members of this parliament want Queenslanders to be safe, all members of this parliament want victims to be properly supported, all members of this parliament want offenders to be held accountable and all members support early intervention because we want to prevent people becoming victims of crime. Any suggestion that one member or one party has a monopoly on these priorities is complete nonsense. Perhaps I should write to the Speaker about that because that has been suggested many times. I seem to recall that during last year's election, and many times in this parliament, the Premier used the words 'accountability and transparency'—on at least more than one occasion. Apparently he does what he says, he means what he says, he walks the walk, he practices what he preaches, he puts his money where his mouth is—and the list could go on—except he does not. Whether it is working with his team to hide problems at the Callide Power Station or getting his AG to—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, could you explain how this is relevant to the debate before the House?

Mr J KELLY: I would take great pleasure in explaining how this is relevant to the bill. I am looking at the words 'accountability and transparency' and I am providing some instances—that I will further elicit if I am allowed to continue—where the Premier is not living up to the standards of accountability and transparency that he has sought to communicate on numerous occasions to this chamber and the people of Queensland. May I continue, Deputy Speaker?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may continue.

Mr J KELLY: Whether it is working with his team to hide problems at the Callide Power Station or getting his AG to make dodgy appointments to the Electoral Redistribution Commission or back flipping on his vote in this sacred chamber and shutting down the Path to Treaty process—

Mr HEAD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I understand there have been a number of rulings with regard to relevance. The Speaker, as I understand it, has ruled on the fact that you cannot pick individual words out of the report.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, could you explain how this is relevant to the bill before the House? I will give you that opportunity.

Mr JKELLY: I am attempting to show a pattern of behaviour that demonstrates there is not much accountability or transparency. When one of the core tenets of this bill, and the amendments of the opposition, is around the expert advice and if the Premier of this state is going to hang his hat on accountability and transparency, to then walk in here and put laws up—

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr JKELLY: I am trying to answer the question that you put to me.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, take your seat. What is your point of order?

Ms SIMPSON: My point of order relates to relevance. The member is doing a lot of tap dancing but he is not addressing the bill.

Mr JKELLY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take your seat, please, Minister. Member, I will allow you to proceed, but I will ask you again to address the matters before the House.

Mr JKELLY: I have a point of order. Members are taking repeated—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, allow me to take the point. You do not just get up and start talking. What is your point of order?

Mr JKELLY: Members are taking repeated points of order in an attempt to disrupt and they are obstructing my capacity to operate as a member of this chamber.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not accept that as a point of order. Proceed with your address.

Mr JKELLY: I do not see from the Premier much accountability or transparency so it comes as no surprise that a key piece of information is being held back, hidden, obscured from anyone who has to vote on this legislation. We all just have to wonder what is the expert advice being relied on to back this legislation? I for one enjoy the theatrical work in this chamber of the member for Currumbin. She is one of the proudest graduates of the Currumbin Academy of Performing Arts, but sadly it does not translate from this chamber to the big screen. I think perhaps the member will have to go back for more lessons. Imagine suggesting that journalists who are asking insightful questions are political stooges. I think the minister should spare us the theatrics and give us the expert advice so that we have a chance to understand this legislation.

In the contribution of the minister she said one of the reasons she was not releasing this advice was because it was partial advice. How partial is it? Is it a little bit, is it a lot, is it not much at all, is it half advice? In any case, surely what advice has been relied on is there and they are relying on that for this legislation so no matter how partial it is that expert advice should be released. I am on a number of management committees and if a CEO asked me to rely on advice without letting me see that advice I would be very suspicious. This is a lot worse than that.

Back in November the experts who we were allowed to hear from warned of unintended consequences. Labor listened to them and tried to amend the original legislation. Clearly the LNP took this issue to the electorate as their key policy agenda and they received the endorsement of the Queensland people. Labor will respect and support the people of Queensland. One would think that if this is your key policy area that you won an election on, that you talk about to the exclusion of everything else, that you would probably want to get these laws right. Instead, we are here, for the fourth time since November, fixing these laws up.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, make your comments through the chair, please.

Mr JKELLY: Some political analysts might consider it to be a brilliant strategy on the part of the government to keep pursuing this issue, but they would be terribly wrong. This is not a brilliant strategy. It is chaos, it is piecemeal and it is amateur hour. Being a good healthcare professional, I always prefer prevention ahead of cure so I have been a strong advocate of early intervention: Free Kindy, more teacher aides in state schools, expanding the Pathways colleges, free TAFE, Skilling Queenslanders for Work, getting unemployment down to four per cent, tripling the number of maternal mental health beds, universal FairPlay vouchers, as well as initiatives in youth justice, family resilience and mental health investments that we were making. That is what early intervention looks like.

What are we getting for all this talk of gold standards? Let us look at what the DG had to say during the committee inquiry—

Funding has been provided to at least two organisations, but the vast bulk of that \$485 million or half a billion to come is across the forwards—I think it is more than that in the forwards. Over half a billion, of course, is in a tender process

Two organisations in the whole state! I have more happening in my electorate. I think we will see more gold from the 2032 Olympics before we see any Gold Standard Early Intervention—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I am very broad-minded. I struggle to see the relevance between this address and the bill before the House. Could you please contain your address to the matters before the House.

Mr J KELLY: Finally, I want to support Labor's sensible amendments. Congratulations to the shadow minister and the Labor committee members for the most thorough statement of reservation in the history of the Queensland parliament. These amendments show what real accountability and transparency looks like. It is imperative that we have monthly victim data. The Premier promised to resign if victim numbers do not fall so he should be very comfortable, particularly given his stance on accountability and transparency, to release this data. These laws are new, they are wideranging and it is imperative that we have an independent review within 18 months and any review outcomes, in a spirit of transparency and accountability, should be publicly released. Releasing the expert panel advice should not be an issue for a government so committed to transparency and accountability.

Finally, we wanted QSAC's sentencing of sexual assault and rape recommendations implemented. These laws truly reflect expert consensus, community expectations and our commitment to meaningful victim-focused reform. I have cared for many women who have been sexually assaulted. It is a terrible crime and it has intergenerational impacts. Allowing people to avoid taking responsibility for their actions because they are of good character is completely out of step with community expectation. I am pleased we have been able to drag the LNP in that direction.

I genuinely hope that this bill will make Queenslanders safer. I genuinely hope we do a better job of supporting victims and offenders are held accountable. I hope we continue to pursue early intervention programs to prevent future victims, but I fear once again we will find ourselves back here due to the chaotic, piecemeal approach of the LNP on these very important issues.