



Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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YOUTH JUSTICE (ELECTRONIC MONITORING) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr JKELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (8.49 pm): One would think if the LNP ministers had their own speech writers we would get a different speech from each of them, but we still seem to get A and B speeches from every single one of them. It is money well spent—value for Queensland's money. We are lucky to have in this House members of the calibre of the member for Macalister, who gave us an excellent analysis based on real-world experience of the impacts of this legislation and how it might be put into operation. It was a deep analysis and exploration of what this would mean for the offenders, for the victims and for the operational police officers. What did we get from those opposite? They dug deep into their bag of interjections and we got the very erudite, 'Do you support it or not?' Perhaps they should have listened to an operational police officer of the member for Macalister's calibre and tried to understand what she was trying to contribute here.

It is always a pleasure to rise to speak on a bill that essentially involves the LNP handing in Labor's homework. We have seen the pathetic efforts in this chamber today of the transport minister trying to claim credit for 50-cent fares. I talk to a lot of young people in my community, and when 50-cent fares come up does the name Mickelberg come up? They immediately say, 'Steven Miles.'

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance and on remaining within the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Member for Greenslopes, I ask you to be relevant to the bill before the House.

Mr JKELLY: Tonight, the Inspiring Brighter Futures Foundation held its annual launch here in Parliament House. Congratulations to founder and good friend John Godwin on what should be another great year. This is an organisation that uses a vast network of mentors to run wellness mentoring programs. They help people to identify their values, set goals, build esteem and empower them to move on with their lives. They work with women recovering from domestic violence, young people who are on a bad path, refugees, First Nations people, people in bikie gangs and people who are returning to society after serving time in prison. This organisation started in 2010, and it has been helping people to aim big, build confidence and make great choices.

This is the type of organisation that the Nous Group's report anticipated when it said for electronic monitoring devices to be successful wraparound services are essential. I have spoken about this in the past, but I think we have to take a broad view of preventing people from ending up committing crimes and creating more victims when we are developing policy. It is not all in the criminal justice space. While this bill contains measures that will certainly help with that, there is a whole range of things that we have to do and that we have done.

Early and long-term engagement with education reduces people's likelihood of ending up in crime. Free kindy, pathways colleges, Skilling Queenslanders for Work and free TAFE did that. We know that people who are exposed to domestic violence are also predisposed to ending up in the

criminal justice system. That is why the work around preventing domestic violence, supporting victims and helping with recovery is so important. The work of Sue and Lloyd Clarke in ending coercive control is so incredibly important.

People who live with mental health issues and intellectual disabilities are over-represented in our prisons. Often the victims of their crimes are their families and their carers, the people who are trying to help them. I was proud to lead Labor's mental health inquiry, which resulted in massive increases in funding via the mental health levy which increased support for specialised services for people with disabilities.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance again in relation to the long title of the bill.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The issues which the member for Greenslopes is addressing go to the settings and supports that are provided to those who might be considered eligible for being fitted with one of these devices and are well traversed in the committee report and the statement of reservation.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have your point of order, thank you. Member for Greenslopes, I ask you to directly refer your comments back to the long title of the bill.

Mr J KELLY: I will come back to the Nous Group's evaluation, but I am not surprised that the party which voted against a mental health levy does not want me talking about it. That is of no surprise here.

Their evaluation noted that the use of EMDs is not a silver bullet; rather, it is one tool that if applied correctly has evidence to show it works and is an alternative to custody. I think the key concept here is 'applied correctly'. We have heard a lot about rolled-gold early intervention programs. We have heard a lot, but we have not seen a lot. I think the minister has started more new chiefs of staff than she has started rolled-gold intervention—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, I will keep you relevant to the bill.

Mr J KELLY: Submitter after submitter noted how important it was to have wraparound services accompany the use of EDMs—Voices for Victims, the Queensland Law Society, PeakCare, the Townsville Justice Group, to name a few. Newly minted Townsville City Council mayor Nick Dametto said in his contribution—

If you do not have a wraparound service or a guiding adult in these young people's lives, just monitoring them and knowing where they are while they are up to no good is not going to change their behaviour.

I did not agree with a lot of what Nick said when he was a member of this chamber, but I think he could be on to something there. I should note that, while submitters shared similar thoughts to the Townsville mayor, the evidence also supports their view. Look at the numbers from the evaluation: 72 per cent of orders completed during the trial resulted in successful completion of bail conditions; and the trial group had an 18 per cent lower reoffending rate and 16 per cent fewer offences involving victims. They are real reductions in victim numbers because they involved the use of interventions that are based on evidence.

The Townsville Justice Group shared their concerns with the committee about the reliability of wraparound services. It suggests that the talk of rolled-gold wraparound services is just talk. The questions put by the Labor team in their statement of reservation are the key questions the minister needs to answer: where will the services be delivered; what parts of our state will miss out; what organisations are funded and when does that funding run out; when will those services which funded organisations have not started commence; and which rolled-gold services have been announced but are actually not yet being delivered?

I also note the concerns raised by submitters about technology issues. Wraparound services are important, but it is also important to have a reliable internet connection. It is easy to announce a program which sounds great, but what is the use of an intervention if we do not have the technology capability to implement it? I fear that people will hear about this program and think it will help to improve community safety, but it seems the government remains silent on the fact that this will not be deliverable in many parts of Queensland.

I thank those submitters who took the time to participate in this inquiry. I think all submitters would hope that if these EDMs are properly resourced and supported by wraparound services the early trends will continue and lead to a reduction in the number of victims in our state. Labor remains committed to supporting evidence-based laws and programs that protect Queenslanders, prevent individuals from

entering the youth justice system in the first place and, most importantly, support victims, ultimately preventing people from becoming victims.

I want to leave the last words in my contribution tonight to the young lady we heard from at the Inspiring Brighter Futures launch tonight. She is their youth ambassador. Elise was the school captain at her school while experiencing homelessness and hiding the fact that she lived in a tent and had to use public toilets to get ready for school. Here are a couple of things she said in her speech—

To everyone in this room, your support turns programs like this from ideas into impact.

From concepts into lives changed.

From good intentions into real opportunity.

...

Keep listening to young people.

Keep believing in them.

Keep backing programs like Onwards & Upwards.

And keep creating spaces where young people can grow, lead, and thrive.

Because when young people are supported properly, they don't just survive—

They rise.

Together, we really can inspire brighter futures, one young person at a time.

Thank you, Elise.