




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

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MOTION

Victims of Crime, Data Reporting

 **Ms McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (5.53 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the shadow minister. The Premier said in the lead-up to the election that there would be fewer victims of crime. In fact, he staked his job on it. He said his would be a government of transparency and integrity. Obviously there were many attempts by Queenslanders to clarify what that actually meant but the Premier was very short on details. There were questions by media about exactly how that data would be collected, collated and reported—‘Oh, that is not important.’ This was a person who was all about the slogans. That is what we have. We have a government that is delivering on slogans but is very short on the detail. I am hearing so many statistics coming from the other side, but I think we and the rest of Queensland know that we cannot trust any statistics coming out from this government. Time and time again they have announced figures are lower—there are fewer victims of crime; crime is going down—but what comes through when the data is actually analysed is, ‘Oh, there was a misrepresentation of data.’ ‘Oh, it is the police’s fault, they got it wrong.’

Ms Pugh: Hansard mucked up.

Ms McMAHON: Hansard must have mucked up. Everyone has an excuse for why the data is wrong and why the election commitment that the Premier staked his job on is lacking. It is not coming through when the data is actually scrutinised. Last year it was the QPS and the alleged coding error and in this case we are not actually comparing apples with apples. To say that crime is going down you need a similar dataset. When the data is not even being measured the same, you cannot compare apples with apples, you cannot say that there is a trend and you cannot say that it is going down.

Members on this side of the House want to see a reduction in crime, we want to see fewer victims of crime, but we cannot trust a single statistic coming out of this government. That is why I support the Leader of the Opposition’s suggestion that we need independence in verifying all this crime data because if someone has staked their job on it, I am not trusting them to deliver and the rest of Queensland is not trusting them either. That has gone—that ship has sailed.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members on my left, I cannot hear your own speaker.

Ms McMAHON: Queenslanders might be fooled once, but they are not going to be fooled twice by data that is misrepresented. Over the last couple of days I have heard the police minister going on about how our questioning of the data seems to be some indictment on the police. That is far from the truth because the police are doing exactly what they are meant to be doing. They are complying and they are doing their job. I make absolutely no insinuation that our police are not doing the job properly, that they are not investigating and that they are not recording offences as they occur. They are recording them as they are supposed to, but what is happening is the data is being fudged. We are not saying it is the fault of the police.

I was around the last time the LNP were in government. The last time the LNP was in government they closed the whole police statistics office. You could not get data out of the police at all—maybe that is what is next if the data is not supporting what they want or if the data is not supporting their claims or the Premier's ironclad commitment that the number of victims of crime would go down and he has put his job on the line for that. The QPS statistics guys must be wondering if their jobs are next because we know what happened the last time the LNP were in government. They did not like the statistics coming out of the police so they shut the office down. I was there in 2015 and 2016 when we had to re-establish the statistics that were publicly reported by the QPS. For years there had been none because those opposite did not want data coming out that did not back their slogans. This is not about suggesting the police are not doing their job; this is about the dodging of statistics and data being released through media releases that has no independent scrutiny whatsoever. All we are asking for and all Queenslanders are asking for is independence and not fudged figures by this government. The police are releasing data. It is being cherrypicked. We do not want fudged statistics anymore.