

Question on Notice

No. 1491

Asked on 30 October 2018

MR M HUNT asked the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (HON D FARMER)—

QUESTION

With reference to increasing youth crime in the Nicklin Electorate and complaints from local police that recidivist offenders are committing offences often on bail—

Will the Minister consider re-introducing breach of bail as an offence in the *Youth Justice Act 1992*?

ANSWER

Young people who commit offences on bail are brought back before the courts and dealt with accordingly. This is the practice which has been operating in the youth justice system for decades.

The 2014 changes to bail laws had little or no effect on offending with less than 10 breaches heard; the courts rarely heard matters relating to the breach but rather the offences committed by the young person on bail.

The community expects young people to be accountable for their actions and so does the Government, but we need to apply solutions which result in reductions in re-offending, not create new offences of little or no effectiveness.

I am committed to pressing ahead with a Youth Justice strategy which will keep the community safer by reducing rates of youth offending and re-offending through policies and programs which work and are based on evidence. These include restorative justice programs, transition programs, early intervention, and focussing on the causes of offending. It will not include re-introducing breach of bail laws.

This Government does not tolerate crime and anti-social behaviour: breaking the cycle of offending is the best solution for our communities, better for young people, and better for their families.