LAID UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE
THE CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT

Ministerial Statement

18/5/04

From the Minister for Child Safety

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
No. 591
18 MAY 2004
QUEENSLAND

Nundah Case

All Queenslanders would be very concerned about the severe assault of a three month old child which has been reported in the media over the last 24 hours.

As Minister for Child Safety I believe the perpetrators of these types of crimes should be subject to the full force of the law.

People need to understand that if they harm children, there will be severe consequences.

As Minister I am keeping a very close and personal watch on the events surrounding this incident.

I have requested regular updates on the progress of the child.

Mr Speaker,

Harm to any child is a cause of tremendous concern to the government and the Queensland community and I know our hearts go out to this child as she suffers from senseless child abuse.

Child abuse is a whole of government and whole of community concern and everyone needs to be vigilant in protecting the young and defenceless members of our society.

All decision making by the Department of Child Safety and the SCAN team will be subject to review in accordance with our established review policies.

Infant abuse is often a very complex matter and it would be very unfair to make premature assumptions in any case.

I can assure the House that improvements to the child protection system are being made as fast as humanly possible to ensure that Queensland will have a strong and robust system protecting vulnerable children.

(ends)