



Speech By
Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 10 August 2017

MOTION

Schools, Drugs and Weapons

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (5.13 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the honourable member for Aspley and condemn the inaction of the Palaszczuk Labor government. 'Gold Coast schools become crime zone with record drug and violence suspensions'—that was the heading of an article in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* earlier this week, on 7 August, yet this soft-on-crime Labor government sits on its hands and does nothing. Rather than endless reviews and more discussion like we have seen from the Premier, who told attendees at her fake town hall meeting in Currumbin last week that she was 'currently putting together an ice strategy and going to get preventative measures in place', we need action. This do-nothing Palaszczuk government are dithering over something as important as dealing with a potential ice epidemic.

The LNP on the other hand recognised the growing scourge of drugs and announced our comprehensive, five-point action plan to take ice off our streets back in July 2016. Our action plan supports strong enforcement and comprises the following: dob in a dealer by reporting information to Crime Stoppers; keeping bikie clubhouses closed for good; working with the federal government to deliver additional drug addiction treatment services; ensuring law enforcement cooperation between state and Commonwealth law enforcement agencies; and increased prevention through community awareness programs targeting high-risk Queenslanders.

Together with my high school principals, local police and school community, I have been lobbying for a school based police officer to be shared between our two high schools for over a year now. Just when we thought we might actually be getting close to receiving one, the assistant commissioner revealed in estimates that Labor have changed the goal posts, saying that officers have 'been in meetings with principals to discuss a different approach rather than the appointment of a specific officer'. What sort of cop-out is this? Pardon the pun, but it is hardly a good idea to abandon a program like SBPOs when it has been successful and at a period in time when our kids need all the support they can get. Honourable members in this place acknowledge our world has changed with new and frightening challenges facing us all but especially our kids, so why not appoint a school based police officer for Palm Beach Currumbin and Elanora High?

I want to place on record how proud I am of my two local high schools for taking a constructive approach to promoting healthy and proactive relationships between students and local police. I do not suggest that they have worse problems than others or that they are anything but outstanding educational entities. However, they do have large school communities and want to be able to safeguard students from preventable harms. They recognise the benefits of having another layer of guidance, and school based police officers have a proven positive influence in our schools by offering another layer of adult guidance to teens. By ignoring requests from local police and principals to provide SBPOs where

they are needed most, Labor are burying their heads in the sand and putting our youth at risk. The Palaszczuk government is showing that it is not only soft on crime but also neglecting the welfare of teens by refusing to support our calls for an SBPO.

What more proof do Queenslanders need that Labor do not care about anyone but themselves than their quasi-week of governing from the Gold Coast? The supposed town hall meeting on 1 August at Currumbin RSL will be remembered by Gold Coasters as a serious breach of trust and deliberate deceit by the Palaszczuk Labor government. So much for a good old-fashioned town hall meeting! This was blatant campaigning from a Premier with no real interest in Currumbin or understanding of the hardships facing our residents as a result of her government's M1 inaction, car rego and power spikes and cost-of-living hikes. The Premier had plenty of opportunity to announce a school based police officer at this meeting or during her week on the Gold Coast, but she did not. In fact, she was so desperate to fill a room to hear her speak that she resorted to robocalls across the Gold Coast less than 24 hours before the event.

Sunday Mail columnist Peter Cameron referred to the meeting as 'salted with red-shirted Labor supporters thrust in to cheer North Korean style'. Labor's candidate for Currumbin claims to be a local through and through—but she does not even live there and is so enamoured of Currumbin that at the last election she ran for the seat of Mudgeeraba. I call on the Minister for Police and the Minister for Education to stand up for students at PBC and Elanora high schools and allocate a new school based police officer for Currumbin high schools. Having a school based police officer engaging with the school and local community will assist in developing crime prevention strategies to keep our kids safe, but Labor are not interested.