

JUVENILE CRIME, GOVERNMENT'S STANCE

594. Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO to the Premier:

Will the Premier advise the House of the Government's strong stance on juvenile crime?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

The Government has implemented a range of initiatives to deal with the problems of serious and repeat offending in our community. We are pleased that burglary rates are down in Western Australia. Last week the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and I congratulated the Police Service. We have given it the resources and now it is acting effectively to bring about a reduction. However, more needs to be done. We have a problem with serious and repeat offenders in our community. One of our key initiatives is the Young Offenders Amendment Bill, which will enable us to use electronic monitoring to ensure that youngsters who are on curfew are properly monitored. This device is used to make sure that there is security in the community and the legislation allows for that to be used. The latest technology will be available to detect drug use among young offenders. Further, we are strengthening the powers of the Supervised Release Review Board and we are increasing support for victims of juvenile crime. These initiatives, including the legislation, are part of the \$20 million expenditure announced recently to tackle serious and repeat offenders in our community.

I will now turn to the performance of the Opposition on this issue. Yesterday those opposite deferred legislation that would have made it clear that drunk driving is not acceptable in the community. Last night opposition members voted against the Young Offenders Amendment Bill. It is clear that the Liberals are soft on crime. Opposition members are delaying important legislation and voting against legislation that will ensure safety for our community. We know where the Liberals stand on important issues that address our community. This young offenders Bill is absolutely vital to enable us to tackle the issue of serious and repeat offenders, and the Liberals voted against it.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call to order the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Nedlands.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Once again the Opposition has failed the people of Western Australia. It is opposing legislation that is crucially important to tackle serious and repeat offending in our community. Those opposite will be judged by their performance, not by their rhetoric.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call to order the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Nedlands.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: When this tag is placed upon a serious and repeat offender as part of a curfew, it will protect the public. That is why we need the legislation passed through the Parliament. There is a clear choice in Western Australia today. Labor is committed to the future, it is committed to improving and extending our metropolitan rail system for the future development of the city and it is committed to dealing with the water crisis in Western Australia. The Liberals are locked in the past. When it comes to tackling crime, only one party in Western Australia can be guaranteed to deliver the goods in this Parliament, and that is the Australian Labor Party.