

YOUTH CRIME — FORUMS — KIMBERLEY

Statement

HON KYLE MCGINN (Mining and Pastoral — Parliamentary Secretary) [6.53 pm]: I think everyone will enjoy the response to some of the ludicrous claims made by Hon Neil Thomson. It is not unusual in this chamber to hear that type of thing from the honourable member. I want to correct the record on quite a few things. Hon Neil Thomson mentioned a crime forum that took place last year prior to the election. The honourable member would be well aware that certain members were not even invited to that forum. It was very funny to see that all the Liberal members were there. They were organised and had been invited and had pre-planned to go there. Zak Kirkup had already bought his khaki pants, R.M. Williams boots and his fake Akubra so that he could go there and whip up as much drama as he could. What happened? As soon as we found out about that forum, Hon Ben Wyatt and I were up there, front and centre. We went there and stood absolutely front and centre in front of the community, and we listened. That is something that the member does not understand—listening and actually reacting to what community members want. What happened up there and what I saw from the Liberal Party was desperate, cheap and dog whistling. It was a case of whipping up stuff so that Liberal members could get a front page up against the Premier, and it was disgraceful. Does the member know what his fearless leader, who no longer leads the party, said? He stood in front of the crowd and said that the community was short 18 police and that the government was disgraceful. The police, who were sitting right there, stood up and said, “No, we’re not. We are absolutely not 18 officers short.” It was a lie to fearmonger and get the crowd going, and it was rubbish. Hon Robin Scott, an ex-member of this place, was there calling for an intervention. Using words like that in a place where there has been so much pain, and he is up there whipping up that type of language, and your party was sitting front and centre with him. It was disgraceful! We are about real results and real listening and really actually getting to the core issue.

Another part that I do not think the member understands is there is more to his electorate than just the Kimberley. He stands here and talks about the Kimberley. Does he see what is happening in the rest of the region? Does he understand the challenges of regional WA and youth? I feel as though he gets up on this grandstand so that he can get a media bite, a front page, something up in the Kimberley. How about for a change he starts looking at the holistic issue? That is something we have to do in government. We have to look at the whole of WA. We have to look at every single inch of it, not just pick up on an issue, go around and whistle it up a little bit, go and grab the member from the other place, Vince Catania, take him up to the Kimberley and get shots next to a river. That is not the sort of stuff we are doing. Hon Rosie Sahanna is up there working hard with the Nirumbuk Aboriginal Corporation, having a forum that the member did not even mention in his speech. There were stakeholders and government reps there, it was well attended and it went for two days. You rocked up at the back end of the second day! Where were you for the first day? A community forum with the government and local organisations was organised and you did not even show up, so do not come into this place and start whipping up things against the Minister for Police. The member for Kimberley and Hon Rosie Sahanna are up there fighting every single day for that electorate, and I do not want to sit here and listen to you rubbish it, because it is absolutely unacceptable. I am not going to cop it. You talk about things off the cuff. You say things without any funding models. You talk about curfews. I heard you on the radio talking about a curfew, and the presenter said to you, “Well, they did it in Northbridge, what were the results?” You said, “I’m not sure. I know they did it but I haven’t looked at it.” You do not do any research! You get into this place and just sling it around. Take your time, go back and look at the problems. You stood there and said that you work with a bipartisan approach. That is rubbish. That is fake. That is absolutely fake, and if you were really serious about it, you would have more of a handle on the issue than just trying to get your media grab in this chamber. It is disgraceful.

Statement

The PRESIDENT: Member, the time left for debate is about two and a half minutes. I thought I would let you know.

HON ROSIE SAHANNA (Mining and Pastoral) [6.57 pm]: I have only two minutes; I will be quick, hopefully. It is the Kimberley’s afternoon today. Afternoon delight!

The PRESIDENT: Honourable member, you can take off your mask to speak.

Hon ROSIE SAHANNA: I was just sitting in the back, listening to the issues. One, it is not just a Kimberley issue; it is a statewide issue. The youth forums that have been held in the Kimberley, Hon Neil Thomson and his team. They have had curfews. All the stuff that is in this report that I have here, such as the number of attendees at the meetings throughout the Kimberley—the issues are basically the same everywhere. The member is going to do the report of his trip. My question is: where to from here? Who is going to implement those issues and how will they implement them? I am guessing the member will have that in his report.

I refer to an ABC interview given by the Leader of the Opposition, Mia Davies, in Broome. She was asked if they were in government, where they would start, and she responded, according to my notes, “We are solutions orientated. We want to talk to the community about what they think will work, what we have seen work in other jurisdictions,

and meet other people to gather the information and provide a report.” I think everybody does that. It is just all a talkfest—report, report, report. Aboriginal people have been the most microscopic people on the earth. Everybody wants to have a bit of them. They want to write reports, and where do they end up? They end up under the carpet, mate.

Anyway, one thing that has been raised during these forums is funding cycles. That is what the Leader of the Opposition has said. We have lots of non-government organisations delivering funding programs in the region, but they are only provided in one or three-year contracts. These are long-term problems and need long-term solutions. Did you just wake up from a deep sleep? It has always been a one-year to three-year contract.

Hon Kyle McGinn: Always.

Hon ROSIE SAHANNA: Always. It has never been any different. We are talking about issues that have been around for a very long time. They did not just happen in the last six months—a very long time. All of a sudden, there is an election coming up, and members of the Liberal and National Parties are out there canvassing the Kimberley, trying to see if they can find solutions to the issues. They are not going to find them. As an Aboriginal person who has been here, working with the youth, I can stand here and say that this is the result of decades of failed social—can I finish?

The PRESIDENT: Member, your time for your contribution has expired.

Hon ROSIE SAHANNA: I will finish it tomorrow night, then.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you. Members, the time for members’ statements has expired and the house is adjourned.

House adjourned at 7.01 pm
