



Speech by

Dr Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Hansard Wednesday, 15 September 2010

REDLANDS, VIOLENT CRIME

Dr ROBINSON (Cleveland—LNP) (10.32 pm): I rise to address the issue of violent crime in the Redlands. Despite government assurances that things are under control, I am concerned that violent crime may be on the rise. A serious incident took place on the evening of Tuesday, 7 September when Ray Lee, a 94-year-old war veteran, was seriously assaulted in his Station Street home at Wellington Point. It appears that Mr Lee may have disturbed a burglar in the act of breaking into his home.

At about 10 pm that evening neighbours found Mr Lee lying outside the front of his home bleeding heavily and with extensive facial injuries. His injuries included a broken jaw and a fractured eye socket, which left him almost unrecognisable. Ray was known as a fiercely independent and proud man. At the age of 94 he still did things around the house, mowed his lawn, fixed his car and until recently he was still driving.

Ray initially was in a serious but stable condition in the intensive care unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. The most recent report available to me is that he is recovering from his injuries in hospital. I hope Ray's recovery is full and speedy and I wish his family well. Family members and neighbours along the street remain in shock. This savage attack has created a climate of fear throughout Wellington Point and the whole northern region of the Redlands, particularly as the assailant remains at large. I join with Detective Senior Sergeant Sean Dugger and urge any member of the public who saw anything suspicious in the vicinity of Station Street in Wellington Point that Tuesday evening to contact Crime Stoppers or the Criminal Investigation Branch.

Incidents like this are very concerning, particularly when they occur to defenceless senior citizens and someone who had served his country as Mr Lee did. This brutal, severe and unwarranted act left family members in disbelief at how anyone could attack such a defenceless old man. Unfortunately, this violent act of crime is not an isolated incident. While the Redlands is in general a relatively safe place in which to live, raise a family, work and retire, anecdotal evidence exists that violent crime and other forms of crime are on the rise, based on information provided by reputable groups like Neighbourhood Watch, Crime Stoppers and residents. That is despite the best preventive efforts of our overworked police officers, whom I want to take this opportunity to thank for their courage, diligence and efficiency.

Paul Stanley, the father of Matthew Stanley, and president of the Matthew Stanley Foundation, knows well the impact of violent crime. Paul, a resident of Thornlands, is outspoken on this issue in the Redlands and beyond. I invite all to join me at the gala dinner on Saturday, 16 October at Easts Leagues Club, Coorparoo. I also call on the minister to review the situation in Wellington Point and to consider all measures to improve the safety of residents. In particular, I ask the minister to consider a permanent police beat at Wellington Point based in the business district and also for the minister to review rosters of all police stationed in the Redlands to ensure that they are being fully utilised in the Redlands.