

SENTENCE ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 2017

335. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Attorney General:

I refer to this government's support for the loved ones of victims of crime, such as Margaret Dodd, Don Spiers and the Puddy family, a group the member for Hillarys said are hurting when they should not be hurting.

- (1) How are these families now being treated?
- (2) How is their chance of closure being hindered?
- (3) Who is responsible for this treatment of grieving families?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY replied:

(1)–(3) In short, the Liberal Party and the National Party have joined forces in the Legislative Council to hinder the passage of the Sentence Administration Amendment Bill 2017 through this Parliament and send it off to a committee, no doubt, for debate and Lord knows what. We know that the shadow Attorney General in the other chamber is diametrically opposed to this measure of no body, no parole. We know that because we introduced a private member's bill last year, and when it came into the chamber, the then Attorney General's spokesperson in this chamber, the then Deputy Premier, sat here and said there was no need for this legislation. She gutted the private member's bill and put it in the objects section of the Sentence Administration Act. We brought that bill back on in this chamber, and, when we brought it back on, just think of what happened in this chamber. There was enthusiastic support from the Liberal and National Party members in this chamber. Indeed, the opposition spokesperson for the Attorney General in this chamber said —

... the opposition supports this legislation and wishes it speedy passage.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Now, the Liberal Party and the National Party in the other place are giving comfort to murderers! I assure this chamber that Cameron Mansell, who murdered Mr Puddy and disposed of his body Lord knows where, will sleep a lot easier in his cell tonight knowing that he has got the Liberal Party and the National Party in his corner protecting him.

Let us have a look. We know what happened before the private member's bill came on last time, because the member for South Perth has given us an insight to that. In fact, he said he took Mr Puddy Sr's letter into the Liberal party room and pleaded with them to support the legislation. He went on to say that he was surprised that the amendment —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister, there is a wall of noise. A question has been asked and the minister is answering it. I want to hear the whole lot.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: He did not realise that the amendment being moved by the then government was to gut the private member's bill. Look at what the member for South Perth said —

I congratulate the new Attorney General for his persistence in bringing this legislation back into the chamber. I would like to think that if we had won government, we would have introduced this legislation too, ...

No, members opposite would not, because they are trying to stop it in the Council and give comfort to murderers! Listen to what the member for South Perth said then —

We, as an opposition, will completely support this legislation.

Well, the Liberal Party is not doing that in the other place. It is giving comfort to murderers. If we look at what the opposition spokesperson for legal affairs said here—this is the member for Hillarys —

... the opposition supports this legislation and wishes it speedy passage.

Go and tell that to Hon Michael Mischin, who is doing his best to stop this legislation by bringing on board the National Party and sending this legislation off into the never-never.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Tourism!

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Many families in Western Australia —

Mr P. Papalia: He's only the Leader of the Liberal Party in this house.

The SPEAKER: I am the leader of this house and I call you to order for the first time, Minister for Tourism. Government members, your own member is on his feet.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: The member for Hillarys went on to say —

Clearly, this is legislation that many families —

If I may interpolate, a record-breaking petition, signed by 40 000 Western Australians, called for this legislation. The member for Hillarys was quite right when he said —

Clearly, this is legislation that many families in Western Australia have been campaigning for and want to see pass, and there is no point in prolonging their pain.

I hope I can be heard across the courtyard, because that is what the member for Hillarys said, Hon Michael Mischin and his friends up there in the Legislative Council! I will wind it up, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I know you will, minister.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: We brought this legislation in as a private member's bill last year, as the second state in Australia following South Australia. I was contacted by Attorneys and shadow Attorneys around Australia. They have now all introduced this. Queensland has now passed it, and thanks to the Liberal and National Party members in the Council, they have frustrated this.

The SPEAKER: Wrap it up now, minister.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: They have got on the side and offered comfort to the murderers. This has been pushed back into the nether. This is quite wrong. On behalf of the families of the deceased—on behalf of Margaret Dodd, the Puddys and everybody—I plead for a rethink by the Liberal and National Parties for their irresponsible position in the Legislative Council.