



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

LABOR BETRAYS EMERGENCY SERVICE OFFICERS AGAIN

The Bligh Labor Government has once again betrayed emergency service workers by voting against an LNP proposal to introduce a 3 month mandatory minimum sentence for individuals who assault police, ambulance, fire and rescue and rural fire service officers.

Speaking in the Queensland Parliament during the debate, Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, said it was unfortunate the Bligh Labor Government had again refused to support efforts by the LNP to strengthen protections for emergency service workers.

Mr Cripps said he deeply regretted the fact that assaults on emergency service workers had recently occurred in his electorate of Hinchinbrook, including an assault on an ambulance officer in Ingham and assaults on police officers at Mission Beach and in Innisfail.

“It is a sad thing that such a bill needs to come forward in Queensland, but the current consequences are clearly not a deterrent for those who commit these assaults. Emergency services workers are asked to do very difficult jobs in our local communities” said Mr Cripps.

“A clear message needs to be sent that this type of behaviour will not be tolerated. As elected representatives of the people of Queensland, one of the primary roles of the Queensland Parliament is to reflect the attitudes and views of the community that sends us here to represent them. That requires us to make value judgments” he said.

“It is a legitimate proposition for the LNP to put forward, when violence against emergency service workers is increasing, a bill that says we consider Queensland needs a more pointed deterrent and we consider that a minimum sentence of 3 months to be proportionate to the crime of serious assault against these emergency service workers” said Mr Cripps.

“Those are the values of the LNP. Clearly, they are not the values of the Bligh Labor Government. This is the second time Labor has failed to support these emergency services workers, representing a betrayal of their important role in our local communities“ he said.

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