



May 3 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

Last calls for certainty on Community Champion's Solution

Shadow Minister for North Queensland, Dale Last, has joined calls by a victim of crime for the Premier to guarantee any recommendations made by Community Champion will be implemented after years of inaction.

Major General Stuart Smith (Ret) was appointed in late January to consult with the community and report directly to the Premier with solutions but there was no commitment by the Premier, other than to listen.

"Every day we are hearing of cars being stolen and homes broken into and right now all we have from Labor is to a plan to come up with a plan," Mr Last said.

"I have no issue with Major General Smith and I am sure he is working hard to come up with a solution but I am worried he will do all the work and then the report will gather dust on someone's book shelf."

The recent robbery of 81 year old pensioner, Stanley Thorley's car and other items was yet another example of Labor's softly softly approach on crime not working according to Mr Last. Mr Thorley, who has had a triple-bypass, now lives in fear after his home was entered while he was watching TV.

He and his family called on the Premier to provide more protections for senior citizens and to crack down on crime.

"Our Police Officers are doing the best they can but they are being let down by this Government who won't give them the commitment or legislation needed to bring crime under control."

"Then you have Aaron Harper, Scott Stewart and Coralee O'Rourke sitting on their hands and leaving the problem to someone else."

"It's time that the Premier fronted up to people like Mr Thorley and gave a commitment to implement the Major General's recommendations immediately."

"No one should have to live in fear, locked inside their own home like a prisoner while the real criminals roam the streets."

"Crime is an issue throughout Queensland and this is an opportunity to embrace solutions rather than just continue to talk and order reports, which is all that Labor has done to date."

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