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MEDIA RELEASE

Government's list of soft targets lengthens

Member for Burdekin and Shadow Minister for Northern Queensland, Dale Last, has called for the Education Minister to show her support for teachers and students who are victims of assault in Queensland schools.

Mr Last's calls come following revelations that weapons are being used against staff and students at North Queensland schools.

"Reports that guns, knives and Tasers are being used to threaten people in state schools should be ringing alarm bells but once again the State Government is taking the softly softly approach," an angry Mr Last said.

"Hospital staff, prisons staff, police officers and now teachers are being threatened and assaulted and this government does nothing; it's just not good enough."

"When it comes to the safety of Queenslanders who fill these important jobs there is just no excuse for them being threatened or assaulted."

"A Responsible Behaviour Plan sounds warm and fuzzy but it does very little and won't protect a teacher or student from a knife or some other weapon."

"To say a student who uses a weapon at school should expect to be proposed for exclusion is insulting to every hard-working teacher in this state; let alone one who is threatened with a weapon."

"Boundaries need to be established early and there needs to be consequences for actions."

"There's no punishment for this behaviour at school and it escalates over time so no wonder we have a crime problem."

"Everyone in Queensland knows this government is more concerned about the criminals than the victims but for Grace Grace to say carers need to be good role models when teachers are being attacked with weapons is a new low," Mr Last said.

"As the Minister for Education she is responsible for ensuring schools are safe so we need some leadership and action on this before someone is seriously hurt," Mr Last said.

ENDS

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