



10 September 2008

ELMES SLAMS LABOR OVER CRITICAL UNDERFUNDING OF POLICE

The Member for Noosa Glen Elmes today slammed the Labor Government for the critical underfunding of the Queensland Police Service which forces senior police officers to defend Labor Party policy.

Recent reports in the *Sunshine Coast Sunday* and *Courier Mail* have opened the culture of the Queensland Police Service for public scrutiny. The 7/09/08 edition of the *Sunshine Coast Sunday* reported that staff morale on the Sunshine Coast was 'at a level lower than that during the days of the Fitzgerald Inquiry.' The *Courier Mail* reported on the 10th of September that between 30 and 50 officers are leaving the service each month, more than a third quit following failed applications for leave without pay. Both articles quoted unnamed police officers.

"Thanks to whistleblowers in the Queensland Police Service, we can all now see the culture of critical underfunding and the Labor administration that is intent on hiding the truth of operation police staffing levels from Queenslanders." Glen Elmes said.

"Last week we heard that morale in the Queensland Police Service is at an all time low. Today we hear reports that police officers are leaving in droves and I question what the effect of the loss of experience and know-how is on our police service."

"I have spoken with police from across Queensland and I'm told that the problems facing our local area are the same right across the state. There simply is not enough police and resources to do their job properly. "

"The Noosa police division can muster just the officer-in-charge and 20 operational police, with the rest of the roster made up of trainees and those on either extended sick leave, normal recreational leave or those who have been seconded to other duties."

"In the *Sunshine Coast Daily* dated Wednesday September 10, it was stated that the Sunshine Coast has 448 officers. What I would like to know is how many of these are front-line operational police officers who are available for duty today? I challenge the Minister and her senior advisors to advise Sunshine Coast residents this figure, which would include general duties officers, CIB/Detectives, Child Protection investigators, Dog Squad, Tactical Crime Squad, Watchhouse and Communications staff."

"It is the sum total of these officers who in their various roles are available to provide protection to the residents and businesses of the coast and I look forward to the Police Minister's honest reply." - ENDS

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