



Dale Last MP
Member for Burdekin

Burdekin Electorate Office

Shop 30 Centrepont Arcade

AYR QLD 4807

Tel: 07 4767 0500

Freecall: 1800 817 594

Email: burdekin@parliament.qld.gov.au

Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Affairs

October 7th, 2021

Media Release – Booyah blindside highlights crime hypocrisy

Victims of crime have been treated with “contempt and hypocrisy” according to Shadow Minister for Police, Dale Last MP, after he questioned the logistics of the much touted Project Booyah.

Mr Last said the information released, and the information that was not released, by the Labor government showed Ministers and local MP’s had deliberately misled the Townsville public on the response to youth crime.

“For years now, people like Aaron Harper have referred to a 50% reduction in offending by participants in Project Booyah,” Mr Last said. “What we now know is that half of the participants in Project Booyah have not previously offended and, for the other 50%, we don’t know the extent of their offending other than the fact that they have offended in the past.¹”

“The reality is that, at best, the reduction is 27%. There is not one mention of the participants being recidivist offenders so, for all we know, the program is not even focussed on the so-called hardcore offenders.”

Mr Last said the information was just the latest that has had to be pried from the Labor government and questioned why the government was reluctant to share the truth, especially with victims of crime.

“When it comes to youth justice, the Labor government cherry picks what information they release and buries the rest,” he said. “The Minister refused to reveal the full cost of Project Booyah, but we do know that Labor’s plan to tackle youth crime is a \$500M failure.”

“It’s taxpayers who are carrying the cost of the government’s plan and taxpayers have a right to know how much it is really costing and they deserve to know the real results. Instead, taxpayers and victims of these young offenders are being kept in the dark and fed misleading statistics.”

“Of course programs like Project Booyah have a place in addressing the crime epidemic but the other thing that has a place is the truth.”

ENDS – Media Contact: David Cooper (07) 4767 0500 or 0427 834 844

Source: <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/tableoffice/questionsanswers/2021/948-2021.pdf>