



RACHEL NOLAN MP

Member for Ipswich

Booval Professional Centre
125 Brisbane Rd BOOVAL

PO Box 98
BOOVAL Q 4304

Ph: 3202 3452
Fax: 3202 4778

Email:
ipswich@parliament.qld.gov.au

PARENTS SHOULD BE MADE TO ANSWER

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Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan today said she hoped the Courts would ask the parents of the three children, aged 14, 14 and 13 charged with the Girls' Grammar School arson to explain why their children were out at 12.30 on a Friday night lighting fires.

The first question most people in the community will ask after a crime like this is; "where were the parents?" Ms Nolan said.

"The Juvenile Justice Act does give Courts the right to call parents as witnesses and make them answerable as to what they were doing while their kids were out committing crimes."

"The people of Ipswich deserve that question to be asked in this case."

"I'm not going to jump straight to the conclusion that the parents were negligent – good parents sometimes have difficult kids. But this was a serious crime committed by kids who were on the streets unsupervised after midnight. The parents are the people responsible for these children and they should be asked to explain."