

**Raise Our Voice Competition Speech – 3 mins Fed Chamber 30/10
416 words**

TIM WILSON MP (GOLDSTEIN): Each year, the *Raise Our Voice* competition invites young Australians to answer a powerful question: What steps should the government take today to build a better tomorrow for young Australians?

In Goldstein, that voice belongs to Leonard Callegari. A Grade 6 student from St Agnes Primary in Highett who lives in Hampton East. I had the pleasure of meeting Lenny and his Mum in the Goldstein electorate office last week. His submission, titled “*An Australian Opportunity*,” is a passionate call for action.

Here is Leonard’s vision for a better Australia:

The Australian youth crime rate has skyrocketed in these past few years. A proven way to tackle crime is by creating localised sport and community programs. Children and teens who participate in these types of programs are less likely to reoffend. Programs like this can change the outlook for these small groups of reoffending youths in our area and will in turn have a positive impact in creating safer communities.

Another reason Australia has been negatively impacted by crime is because of our weak bail laws. This is particularly in Victoria. It states in Bail Act 1977, If one is granted bail they must abide by the laws of probation. It seems that this is ignored. If we can’t change the outcome at the root cause for these criminals, we must protect our communities by enforcing stricter probation and bail laws.

For a better Australia we also need cheap and reliable energy. Soon, kids from my generation will not have the same opportunities that previous generations had in Australia because of cost-of-living pressure. Energy bills keep rising and rising, and for some reason we are so focused on climate change that we rebut against nuclear power which provide safe and affordable energy.

That’s my outline for a better Tomorrow for Australia, for the future of millions of kids.

Lenny's words are a call to action. A reminder that the decisions we make in these walls don't just shape the present, they shape the future.

He sees the challenges we face, rising crime, cost-of-living pressures, and energy insecurity. But he also sees the solutions. He believes in the power of community, in the importance of fairness and safety, and in the promise of innovation.

But most importantly, Leonard believes in Australia.

He believes that we can do better not just for him, but for every child who dreams of a future filled with opportunity, safety, and hope.