



JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Members present:

Mr MA Hunt MP—Chair
Mr RD Field MP
Ms ND Marr MP
Hon. MC de Brenni MP
Mr PS Russo MP

Staff present:

Ms F Denny—Committee Secretary

PUBLIC HEARING—INQUIRY INTO THE MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER (ADULT CRIME, ADULT TIME) AMENDMENT BILL 2025

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Friday, 9 May 2025

Redlands

FRIDAY, 9 MAY 2025

The committee met at 10.00 am.

CHAIR: Good morning, everybody, and welcome. I thank you for coming along this morning. I declare open this public hearing for the committee's inquiry into the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025. My name is Marty Hunt. I am the member for Nicklin and chair of this parliamentary committee. I respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today.

With me today are: Peter Russo, the member for Toohey; Russell Field, the member for Capalaba; Natalie Marr, the member for Thuringowa; and the Hon. Mick de Brenni, the member for Springwood, who is substituting for Melissa McMahon, the member for Macalister. Another member of the committee, Michael Berkman, the member for Maiwar, gives his apologies.

This hearing is a proceeding of the Queensland parliament and is subject to the parliament's standing rules and orders. Only the committee and invited witnesses may participate in the proceedings. Witnesses are not required to give evidence under oath or affirmation but I remind witnesses that intentionally misleading the committee is a serious offence.

The Legislative Assembly and its committees recognise that matters awaiting or under adjudication in all courts exercising a criminal jurisdiction should not be referred to from the moment a charge is made against a person until the matter is resolved in the courts. Simply, this means—and I need everyone to understand this—that it is very important that if you are giving evidence of a crime that has occurred against you and it is currently going through the courts then you are not permitted to speak about it in the public forum. I need to make that very clear to everybody. If it starts happening, we will have to close the hearing and all sorts of things. If you have any questions about that, please seek clarification before mentioning something like that. You can talk in general terms, but not specifically about that incident if it is before the court. If it has been resolved then that is fine. Just to clarify, if nobody has been caught, for example, you can speak about it. If a defendant is before the court then that is when it is an issue. All witnesses are reminded not to refer to matters before the criminal courts in their evidence.

As chair, I ask members and witnesses to observe standing order 117, which restricts the naming of at-risk children. Importantly, evidence today should not readily identify a child who is subject to either the Child Protection Act 1999 or the Youth Justice Act 1992. In general terms, it is best not to mention the name of a child. Sir, did you want clarification?

Mr Green: I want to ask a question. Is any of this discussion going to be open to the public, with our names or anything?

CHAIR: I will get to that part of the introduction. The short answer is, yes, unless you ask for it to be closed and we make that decision.

Mr Green: Even if it is out of court, but this is a public matter that is going to be spread for anyone to actually—

CHAIR: If anyone wants to talk in a closed hearing then we can do that. When I call your name, you can request that and we will do it at the end perhaps. Things like that can be done. If you have any questions as you come up then I am happy to clarify.

I remind members of the public that they may be excluded from the hearing at the discretion of the committee. These proceedings are being recorded. A transcript will be published in due course. Media may be present and are subject to the committee's media rules and the chair's direction at all times. You may be filmed or photographed during the proceedings and images may also appear on the parliament's website or social media pages. In relation to the gentleman's questions, if we were to close the hearing for a particular person's evidence then that cannot be published publicly. It can be a private hearing. Please turn your mobile phones off or to silent mode.

Finally, the committee notes that today's hearing could be triggering for those who have been affected by crime. If any witnesses today require a break during proceedings, please indicate. Please also approach the secretariat, Fran, if today's proceedings raise any issues for you and you need support.

The committee will now invite to the witness table individuals who have registered to speak to the committee. If you have not already registered but would like to speak, please list your name on the possible witness list, which is there on the table. Someone will assist you with that. In the interests of time, each witness will be offered approximately three to five minutes to address the committee. The committee appreciates your patience in this process and we will do our best to accommodate as many witnesses as possible. There will be about five minutes maximum each. I am loath to cut people off, particularly when they are saying important things. Please understand that I may have to if your evidence goes for too long, to make sure that we get through as many people as possible today.

BERRY, Mr Neil, Private capacity

CHAIR: I invite you to make a statement to the committee.

Mr Berry: I have not been a victim of crime but I felt something has to be done because you see it on television every day: crime, crime, crime. Yes, what we are doing is Adult Crime, Adult Time. My thoughts on this matter are that the police do a wonderful job of catching the perpetrators, but then the perpetrators go and face the judiciary—the magistrates; the judges. It appears that most of the time with these young offenders it is a revolving door from the courts. We have seen them on television. They laugh at the television cameras because they think they are getting away with it. Most times it seems that the perpetrator is the one who is being protected, not the victim.

My suggestion is that there should be a mandatory minimum sentence. That way, if the judge or magistrate wishes to have the discretion of giving this person a second chance, and everyone deserves a second chance depending on the crime, and if that perpetrator comes back to court—not to the same judge but overall—then there would be a minimum mandatory sentence. It does not matter because the judges have to follow what is legislated. If that perpetrator comes back, 'That's the end of it, mate. You're done.' They will face jail, or whatever is worked out, to teach them a lesson.

At this stage, these young people know because of their ages and they had a bad upbringing and all that, which to me is no excuse, nothing happens. There are probably people here today in that same situation who have never committed a crime. We have respect. Respect has gone. That is what I would like to say.

When this gets off the ground, these judges can say: 'That's it. Second time, mate, and you're gone.' When this gets off the ground, if that was included, there could be a media campaign. It would be called, 'It's too late, mate, you're gone.' They could do an advertisement promo. You could have a judge, although you could not see their face, and they could say, 'You've come up against me. Sorry, mate, you're gone.' There should be no second chance. If we keep giving them second chances, we see second, third, fourth and fifth chances. It is not solving the crime problem.

I know we are getting new jails or whatever built and we understand that. We cannot use that as an excuse to say, 'Hey, we can't put you in jail. We can't put you in boot camp.' Just because it has not been built, you let them go? I am sorry. What do you do? You let them back on the street to do the crime? As I said, this is against property and people are getting assaulted. The worst part, which you cannot see, is the mental health; what is inside these victims' minds that they have to live with forever. I am sorry, it has to be fixed up.

CHAIR: Thanks, Mr Berry, for expressing your views. There being no questions from committee members, I invite the next person to come forward.

FORD, Ms Christine, Private capacity

CHAIR: Ms Ford, I invite you to make an opening statement.

Ms Ford: In one way, I feel a bit of a fraud because I have had no crime committed against me, but I am a single woman in my mid-seventies and I have never ever felt so unsafe. I have travelled around most of Australia by myself. I saw no crimes whatsoever in my younger days, even up to, say, 10 years ago. I could easily and happily pull the car over and stay there, but now I do not travel and I do not go out at night, which means I do not socialise. I have also spent a small fortune of my pension securing my house with alarms and six-foot fences. I recently looked into getting a sliding gate, hoping that would help with insurance and things. My insurance would go down \$26 a year so spending \$4,000 or \$5,000 did not make sense. My car has a steering wheel lock. I went to Coles this morning. Before I even get out of or into the car, I look around. I put the steering wheel lock on straightaway.

That annoys me so much because I used to be very carefree and do whatever I wanted to do. I cannot believe how much it has changed me. I have a close friend who lives down the Gold Coast. She was broken into 2½ years ago. The venom of the ones who broke in! They flooded her house. The damage was astronomical and she was punished by having her insurance increased three times. I cannot afford that. I will not say I live in fear, but I do not live comfortably.

I like riding my bike but I am always cautious, looking around. I have a very distinctive bike. Often I will have young kids saying, 'Gee, I really like your bike.' I have to be careful that they do not follow me home. I do not like living like that.

Something has to be done about these young kids. As the previous person said, there is this revolving door, some of them you read about have 50 or 60 offences on their record and they are still out laughing at us. Something has to be done.

CHAIR: Ms Ford, you started off by saying you feel like a fraud because you have not been a victim of crime, but obviously crime is affecting you. You have outlined the broader impacts that the community feel when they see crime increasing in the community. The bill before the committee increases penalties for young offenders. Would you support that? Do you support the bill?

Ms Ford: Yes. As the previous speaker said, something has to be done straightaway. Have a second chance, yes, but when it is a revolving door and you see them with a list of 50 offences and they have never even seen jail—that has to be stop. I have a dog and I train it all the time. If it does something wrong I deal with it straightaway. I feel these kids need to have that, too.

Ms MARR: Ms Ford, thank you for coming forward today. We have heard a lot that over the years people have felt less and less safe. I do understand that. I have doorknocked a lot of people who have said the same thing. I am sorry that you have had to deal with that for such a long time. The reason we have put these offences into the second tranche is because of the community expectation around these crimes. With most of the court cases going through at the moment the offences occurred before 13 December, but we hope to see changes soon. Do you agree that we need to be tougher on the sentences and to make sure that there are consequences for actions?

Ms Ford: Yes, I agree. We should have mandatory, straightaway.

CHAIR: Thank you.

KEMP, Mrs Bianca, Private capacity

CHAIR: I invite you to make a statement to the committee.

Mrs Kemp: I would like to first thank the committee for coming to the Redlands, and giving an opportunity for the people of the Redlands to speak to the committee. Some of you are aware that there I have run a few youth crime town halls in the Redlands and Gold Coast last year. With the change of government and the promises made, it is great to see that I do not have to run these events any more for the community because the government is actively reaching out, so thank you for that. I would also like to thank those around the room whom I know are victims of crime; you actually have one on your committee. It takes a lot for you to be here, but your stories and your voices are what this government needs for us to get productive and insightful changes that will hopefully better processes and laws to make our communities safer and look after our victims. I would like the committee to look into the rights of victims. It is clear to me that victims are still being left behind when it comes to the aftermath of crime that is committed against them or their family member and that makes them directly a victim.

We are relying too much on our police officers to be police officers and social workers. Before we had police officers we could not do much, knowing the judicial system and the laws could not detain criminals or simply let them off with a slap on the hand. Now we have police officers, with laws backing them up, able to do their jobs. However, obviously these police officers are now busier. Our police officers are trained in protecting, arresting, taking statements and making sure information is correctly notarised for the prosecution. Being social workers is in no part of that and, to be quite honest, I do not think they need to be—the job they are doing is good enough. That leaves me questioning why there is a big gaping hole in our police stations that needs to be filled.

I spent the last year with my daughter in hospital dealing with oncology and the stresses that come with having a serious illness. One could say, I am the victim of a medical ailment. Having a serious medical ailment—honestly, it does not matter what type—is a huge trauma for the patient and their family. The one thing the hospital has is social workers who specialise in departments. The social workers have direct contact to our teams, to any charities or any help. They offer an ear to listen and understand the processes and stresses that come along with having a sick child. They contact charities that can help you with funding financially and through counselling. If you need help with the situation, they stand up and advocate for you.

I think to myself: why don't we have this in police stations? Why don't we have social workers who can be a direct link to our police officers who deal with our case—instead of a victim who has already got the world on their shoulders, who already has PTSD and who is feeling at their lowest having to figure out when a police officer is on duty and able to communicate? Then, that police officer does not have time to respond. Having direct contact with a social worker who is trained to deal with people who have gone through trauma and specialise in a type of trauma would be able to assist the victim with their needs. We are all aware that the current waiting time is over eight weeks. I say eight weeks, but I have brought a victim of crime with me today who has been waiting for over 12 years—who still has not received the help they should have and who is still fighting for those rights. Having a social worker—this person fights your corner; this person checks up on victims; this person makes sure victims are being cared for, listened to and have direct contact and follow-up with a police officer who will give help when needed. This model is already in the hospitals. The Queensland's Children's Hospital has a whole department set up for that. This government runs that hospital. It would not take much for the government and committee to look at this model to see how we could fit it in our police stations.

Right now our victims feel like they are just a witness in the prosecution of the Crown. Yes, it is the Crown's laws that have been broken; however, the victim has to play out their whole scenario again and again and again and then again on their day at court. The current set-up is not working and something needs to be done. The Charter of Victims' Rights underscores the commitment of all Queensland government agencies, including the Queensland Police Service, to treat vulnerable victims of violent crime with consistency of care and minimise the risk of further trauma.

I will leave you with a question because I have struggled to find the numbers. I would like the committee to look into the number of victims of crime who have taken their lives or attempted to take their lives because of the event that caused them to be a victim or who are seeking help with mental health. I do not believe the type of crime is relevant. If you are a victim of crime, you are that—a victim of crime. I believe the number should only represent that. Thank you for your time this morning and, again, for all the work you are doing to make the current laws better and to listen to victims. I hope I have shared some insight and food for thought. For too long, victims have been ignored.

CHAIR: Thank you, Mrs Kemp, for coming along and advocating for victims. As a police officer of 33 years I understand that the police have not done that particularly well over time but I think it is getting better. There is a referral system that police now use for victims—Victims Assist—but you are right, it could be done better. I thank you for your presentation today.

Mr de BRENNI: Thank you for your passionate testimony. I appreciate your very informed and eloquent views. Are you working in the field of victim support? I am trying to understand the background knowledge you bring to the hearing today.

Mrs Kemp: I do help with Voice for Victims. When there are victims of crime, they come to me because they struggle so I do a lot of advocacy in that area for people and that has a wide span—NDIS, health care and housing. I have actually written to Meaghan Scanlon with some housing issues in the Capalaba electorate before the change of government. I will advocate for people who are struggling to get those points across. As part of that, victims of crime come to me. I have a voice and can stand up and speak for them when they are struggling to do so, but I believe it is a collective government responsibility. It is not about party politics; it is about the victims. I will fight in that corner at all times.

Mr de BRENNI: Thank you, Mrs Kemp.

JOHNSON, Mr Dennis, Private capacity

CHAIR: Mr Johnson, I invite you to make a submission to the committee.

Mr Johnson: I would like to thank the committee. I would like to thank the government for its initiative and for giving the community a chance to put their side forward. To give some credence to what I am about to put forward: I have a proven background in fighting crime in New South Wales as an assistant to the former New South Wales minister for police and justice Terry Griffiths. He was an MP and the architect and implementer of crime reduction initiatives in various areas of New South Wales—Business Watch; industrial watch; initiator of juvenile intervention and redirection programs and initiatives for disadvantaged youth—a member of the board of directors of Life Education Southern Districts New South Wales and a chairperson of the drugs, alcohol, violence and youth suicide committee. I appear before the committee today as a reasonably qualified person from my point of view.

I bring the committee's attention to what I believe to be a criminal event that has, for decades now, been treated far too leniently—underscored as an almost acceptable and expected practice in the main by juvenile offenders to the point, I believe, that the theft of motor vehicles has become a gateway crime for and by juvenile offenders. This leads them into more serious criminal actions through the lack of appropriate, strong and severe penalties being dispensed by the judiciary. It cannot be denied that between 2014 and 2024 motor vehicles thefts in Queensland escalated by 116 per cent, with just on 22,000 motor vehicle thefts and combined claims across the insurance industry, at a cost of \$139 million to the people of Queensland—up from just 9,359 motor vehicle thefts in 2015, at a then cost of \$28 million. That is just nine years ago. In financial terms, that is a 305 per cent increase—the highest in Australia.

The figure of 22,000 motor vehicle thefts does not really paint the picture. The simple fact is that a lot of cars are stolen for burnouts, to catch a train, or they come down into the Cleveland area, rip a car off and they drive it back to Logan or whenever they are going. A lot of those cars are self-recovered, so they are not part of the 22,000 stolen vehicles. As we know, they are also used in dangerous driving. There have been a lot of deaths—eight in fact in the last three years—related to stolen vehicles. As we know, stolen motor vehicles can also be used to commit further crimes and are responsible for unnecessary deaths. This makes the theft of motor vehicles a far more serious matter than just 'the use of a motor vehicle without consent' or 'illegally use a motor vehicle', as it is now. These terms are complacent and insufficient in regards to the seriousness of the act of criminality involved in regard to the stealing and theft of motor vehicles. Outside of the cost incurred by the insurance industry, there is the trauma, inconvenience and fear attached to having your vehicle stolen—I know, I am one of them. The loss of personal items and the property that was in the vehicle, the inevitable increase in the insurance of the vehicle and the apprehension involved with having your vehicle stolen and your property invaded.

CHAIR: Mr Johnson, I hate to interrupt you but we are running into about four minutes now and I see you have a couple of pages there so if you could wind it up. I will invite witnesses to provide further written evidence if they wish to via email which we can provide if you do not get to say everything you need to today, but we do have a number of people who need to speak and a limited time.

Mr Johnson: Yes.

CHAIR: If I can give you a 30-second warning to wrap up.

Mr Johnson: Right. Stolen vehicles is one of the items; the other one is the continuation and affordance of bail. Bail is given repeatedly up to 30, 40, 47 times. I spoke with Dan Purdie at another meeting at this hotel. He said they had just locked up another offender for the 47th time for a breach of bail. It is just ridiculous and it complies with the earlier gentleman's comments. Bail is given again—why? Not enough facilities; is that the reason? The offender signs off on their bail terms, yet they break them repeatedly and they are given bail again. As detailed herein, due to the exponential theft of motor vehicles and the present dysfunctional criteria and misuse of bail by the justice system, our police and our state government are being compromised and seen as complacent towards law and order and justice. The people of Queensland respectfully request better. Thank you.

CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Johnson. Thank you for coming to express your views and bringing your experience to this committee.

SEALY, Mrs Maria, Private capacity

CHAIR: I invite you to give your submission to the committee.

Mrs Sealy: Good morning. Thank you very much for being here today and allowing the community to come forward to offer their suggestions. Basically, I am a local resident in Victoria Point. We have been dedicated to community safety for nearly 20 years. We have been impacted by crime as well, but I am here today representing our community.

I would like to put forward some simple suggestions to add to the craziness that has been going on, especially in the last 15 years where we are. Can we have, please, an urgent review of the bail laws for repeat offenders with a criminal history; supervised community service for low-risk offenders such as cleaning graffiti and maintaining conservation areas; education and training for low-risk offenders and supervising mentors; ankle monitors and house arrest for minors; and exclusion bans for adults and juveniles in shopping centres who have committed multiple offences in adjoining areas?

Recently, we have had another group of young juveniles assaulting young girls. It just happened in the last week in Victoria Point. It is constant there. Please prioritise the victim, not the perpetrators—that is crucial, and I mean that sincerely. We would like to have CCTV cameras in known hotspots such as where we are. Since the development happened behind our property 20 years ago, we have had problems from day one. There were multiple meetings with police, the residents and the council. Our council is the major problem where we are as well.

Covert cameras in known hotspots—we know that police do have covert cameras in our area as well to protect citizens and identify criminals and suspicious activity. We need extra police resources and foot patrols in problematic locations. Shopping centres should provide static security on their site, ensuring all incident crimes are addressed and reported to QPS, for the safety of their businesses and their customers and for the statistics. I know for a fact that the QPS statistics are not correct.

Last year, I submitted a major petition to get extra police resources not only in Victoria Point but also in Cleveland and Redland Bay. They do a great job. We do not have the police resources, simple as that. We want licensed premises to ensure they comply with liquor licensing regulations when residential areas are impacted by actions and behaviours of intoxicated people. If I can keep going please, I have not reached five minutes.

CHAIR: You have about a minute left.

Mrs Sealy: We want: councils to work together with QPS in concealed hotspots across the board that attract crime and anti-social behaviour to implement a safety system; and town planners and urban planners to follow the CPTED principles—Crime Prevention Through Environment Design—around shopping centres linking into residential areas. That is not being done. There are systems there, but they are not being implemented. Councils should communicate directly with the residents impacted by those poorly designed spaces. Again, that is not happening either.

Perhaps we could have an Adopt-a-Cop program for Neighbourhood Watches to connect with the local community and to target compromised communities. Over four months last year, I sat in the major shopping centre with our police petition and I had off-duty and retired police and hundreds of the community come to me. I took notes and every three days sent it to the former police minister, the Police Commissioner and our former state member. They have all of that information. Our community is crying out for help and assistance to be safe at the end of the day. We are not going to sit back and wait until somebody gets killed, simple as that.

CHAIR: Thanks, Mrs Sealy. Thanks for coming along. You spoke passionately about the victims being at the forefront, and certainly the first tranche of these laws put that into the sentencing principles—the impact on the victim is to be the primary consideration, effectively. Thank you for that. Do any members have any further questions for Mrs Sealy?

Mr de BRENNI: I do. Thank you, Mrs Sealy, for your statements this morning. You mentioned local government and playing a role with the security cameras. Can you speak very briefly about what you understand is the security camera presence in your community?

Mrs Sealy: Unfortunately, this has been going on for 20 years. We were trying to get cameras in there collaboratively. If that had have been done 20 years ago I would not be sitting here, but that was not the case. The Redland City Council does not have a proper camera policy. It is now 2025. This whole area we are talking about went to court in 2017, and we attended the whole five days. Both the appellant and the respondent were held responsible for putting in crime preventive measures. We only got a new light—no surveillance, no nothing. In 2018, we were pushing for cameras again because the issues were escalating, as they are still. My husband and I—ratepayers—have funded the cameras. We have put them in to keep ourselves and others safe, and they are registered with the police as well.

There have been multiple arrests. We have had so many things going on in that place. I am just overwhelmed and disgusted actually that the council is not proactive with its community in a crime hotspot.

Ms MARR: Thank you for being here today. I am from Townsville. We have had horrible crime for many years. I am also an ex-councillor. Unfortunately, most law fighters will tell you that when you put up CCTV the offenders just move to another location. In Townsville, we actually invested in mobile CCTV units so they could be moved around the city. That might be a better approach than cameras that stay up in a permanent place. It has been very effective for us.

Mrs Sealy: We have asked for that. They have an illegal dumping team in council and they were keen recently to put them in—they know it is a big hotspot there—but the officer came back and said, 'No.'

Ms MARR: You have some really good local members in this area. Maybe you can talk to them about possible funding that might come up for council at some stage.

Mrs Sealy: We have. Overall, I am actually here today for all our Redlands community.

Ms MARR: Absolutely.

Mrs Sealy: Thank you very much.

CHAIR: Thanks, Mrs Sealy.

SANDERS, Mr Chris, Private capacity

CHAIR: I invite you to make a submission to the committee.

Mr Sanders: As you are aware, I am a victim of crime from within this area of Alexandra Hills—it happened just up the road at the Alex Hills shopping centre. Ever since my attack—when I was stabbed—my life has changed, my wife's life has changed and my family's and friends' lives have changed and it is all because of youth crime.

I speak to the police who were involved in that. I get phone calls about court hearings. My case has gone through the Childrens Court. It is all done and dusted. Knowing that that person is still offending blows my mind. When I look at the judges that were involved in the hearings that I went to, I ask myself, 'Why are they so weak?'—and I mean weak!

They sat in front of the offender who stabbed me, looked him in the eyes and said, 'You've had a sliding glass door moment.' If it were a sliding glass door moment, then I would have put his head through it. At the end of the day, I am the one who is suffering—day in, day out; night in, night out—and so is my wife. My relationship is tough right now. I have spoken to the police officers who were involved and they have had to take long service leave not just because of the crime against me but because of other crimes. They have sat there in front of the DPP shaking hands, not just with the other person but also with the offender. To me, that is just appalling. I have heard from the police as to what happened with a lot of the questioning from the DPP and I am absolutely appalled. From their level, they should not be sitting there doing it. If they want to sit there and do that, find another job. As far as I am concerned, victims matter and we all will stand together and we will fight this all the way.

As you know, I am a veteran and I also went through the suicide royal commission. I ask you to dig deep and, like Bianca Kemp said, ask yourself how many victims of crime will take their lives between now and when you find out what you want to do here? At the end of the day, a victim does not live a normal life like they do sitting in a prison cell after being told, 'You've had a sliding glass door moment, but we'll let you out tomorrow.'

The judge sat there and said how disappointed he was to watch video footage of that guy stabbing me and then he just let him walk out. I could not do a damn thing about it. Trust me, I wanted to, but I am a better person than that. I will sit there. I will look him in the face every time he goes to court. I will make sure he is crying every time he sees me. I am the type of person who is not going to back down. I want to see things done for victims and the Redlands, and I appreciate that you have come here today to hear us, even though it is not the first time I have been in front of you. I greatly appreciate your coming to the area and I thank you for your time.

CHAIR: Thanks, Mr Sanders. Thanks for your continued advocacy on behalf of yourself and victims. It is important for us to hear that. It is important for us to know what is going on. Most of all, it is important to know the impacts on victims in the community. The bill before us today adds some new offences to the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. Do you support that bill?

Mr Sanders: I support everything that David Crisafulli and the ongoing government want to produce. One more thing I will touch on: it has been made known to me that the park down at Windemere Road is a local drug-dealing park. When I was on my way to bowls the other day, a friend gave me a tip-off—

CHAIR: I just caution you giving information which might be related to criminal activity. I would suggest you give that directly to the police, if you could.

Mr Sanders: I already did. I already have. I am just saying they are doing it in the open on a main road. That is what I was getting at. They are that blatant. They will sit there and do it on a main road. They do not care. They will do what they want, when they want and how they want. They show us. They tell us how it is going to be. Sorry; not in the Redlands!

Mr de BRENNI: The only thing I would like to say, and I probably speak on behalf of the entire committee, is that we are listening very carefully to the things that you are saying. We all appreciate your service to our nation. Thank you.

Mr Sanders: Appreciate it. Thank you.

Ms MARR: I know you said you have been to forums before but the difference between this and what you have seen in the past with the former government is this is action. We are putting the victims first. We said that. That is why we had the first tranche. You will see some of the offences that we have in this tranche relate to situations that you were just talking about. This is not about just listening; this is about us sitting here today and saying that we are actually moving on what we said we were going to do, and we thank you for your support.

Mr Sanders: Appreciate it. Any time.

Mr FIELD: Thanks, Chris, for coming along. I understand how your life is now.

Mr Sanders: I know you do, Russ.

Mr FIELD: I know we talk two or three times a week. It is difficult for all victims to stand up and talk of how they feel and how all victims feel. After I stood up after our event, it was disappointing that everything we said fell on deaf ears. That is the reason I decided to do something about it. No matter what side of the fence you sit on, we are here to make laws that will help keep people safe and support every victim. We do not put a hand up to be a victim. Nobody knows what it is like until it happens to them. When it does happen, everybody asks, 'Why wasn't this law introduced? Why wasn't that introduced? Why is this person out on bail?' It has been happening for too long and we are now in a position where hopefully we can change that and change it for the better.

Mr Sanders: You have my support every day of the week.

Mr FIELD: Thank you.

CHAIR: Thanks, Mr Sanders.

MUSGRAVE, Mrs Rebecca, Private capacity

CHAIR: I invite you to make a statement.

Mrs Musgrave: I am here today not only as a concerned citizen but also as a victim of recent home invasion—one of so many others whose lives have been disrupted, shaken and forever changed from their own experience.

CHAIR: I will just check before you go on. Your recent home invasion is not before the courts?

Mrs Musgrave: I have no information on that whatsoever. I am not even touching on that really.

CHAIR: Great. Thank you.

Mrs Musgrave: Just for context, 3½ months ago in the early hours of the morning we were invaded by four juveniles. Four of our cars, along with personal items from inside the home, were stolen. They struck at our most vulnerable time; we were in the deepest cycle of sleep and at our most unresponsive. They entered every room, including my three daughters' bedrooms, in search of valuables and keys. As the family of a police officer and healthcare workers, we are somewhat accustomed to the ugliness of the world. On this day, our home, our paradise away from that world, became the place of a crime. Yet we feel we are the lucky ones; we were not physically harmed, but, make no mistake, this crime has left a deep trauma from which I suspect we will never truly recover. Our sense of safety is violated and our sense of protection is gone.

The systems designed to protect us have failed. This was not an act of misadventure; this was a planned and coordinated, calculated crime. These juveniles arrive in stolen vehicles—armed groups, disguised and with purpose and intent. They move silently in unison using hand signals because they know it is wrong. They show no regard for the lives they are harming and go on to gloat about their conquest with like-minded individuals on social media, still with their faces covered and their identities disguised. They are not the actions of those who lack understanding about the wrongness of their behaviour. This again is not misadventure; this is deliberate, criminal conduct. The inaction is devastating to the victims who are left bearing the cost of multiple insurance excesses, home repairs, the inconvenience of not being able to travel to and from their employment obligations and the lingering trauma for which there is minimal support. In our family's case, this crime meant there was one less police officer and two less nurses aiding the community in the days that followed.

Whilst I am grateful for the recent expansion of the offences included in the Adult Crime, Adult Time list, it is simply not enough. This—here—is where the rubber meets the road. It is time our elected government stops treating offenders as if they are victims. We are the victims: our children, your children; our families, your families; our businesses and our communities. We are collectively the victims. We need action and we need it now. The current judicial system is failing. Their response is inadequate. The work has been done, the legislative frameworks exist and the community supports it. We need the courts now to enact it. No more mollycoddling, no more divert from court privileges, no more slaps on the wrist. We need real and immediate consequences. Appropriate punitive sentencing must be imposed not only for justice and as a deterrent but also as a way to restore a sense of peace and safety.

As our elected leaders, it is your obligation and commitment to provide law and order. It is not working. It is about standing up for the innocent, it is about restoring faith in our safety, it is about saying enough is enough. It is about taking firm action to cease this crime epidemic. You are the cure. Back our police, back our families and back your own. We need your help. We need resources. Above all, we need leadership with the courage to restore order and safety.

CHAIR: You mentioned courts giving appropriate sentences. We had evidence from a defence lawyer in Townsville yesterday. He indicated that magistrates up there are giving higher penalties for offences committed after the date the first tranche of laws came through. Green shoots; there is a long way to go. You did talk about victim trauma as well. A lot of the evidence we have heard from people who are not in favour of these laws focused on the trauma of children, putting them into detention et cetera. Can you expand on the trauma experienced by victims, particularly ongoing trauma after the event, and how that affects you and your family?

Mrs Musgrave: It is not nice to not have a sense of safety in a place that really is our paradise away from the ugliness of the world, so to have that ugliness of the world come into our home is an unsettling and uncomfortable feeling. If we cannot be safe in our homes, I do not know where we can be safe. My husband is a police officer of 25 years. He is not safe. That night he felt unable to protect his children. As a mother to three daughters—there are a number of concerns having female children—there is a sense of needing to protect them and being unable to do so. There are a number of feelings of failure as a parent, not being able to protect your brood. Even though I did not do anything wrong, I

carry guilt for being a victim. We did contact victims of crime just to find out if we would be eligible for any assistance, because there was an enormous financial cost to us as a result of this crime. We had four cars stolen, in excess of \$150,000 worth of vehicles plus personal items, and there was no support for us offered at all. In fact, we were considered ineligible. Fine, we will just work harder and recover our costs the normal way, but it should not be that way. There should be some support.

CHAIR: We have taken up quite a bit of your time. Are there any questions?

Mr FIELD: I 100 per cent agree with exactly what you have said.

Ms MARR: That is why we are here.

Mrs Musgrave: It is not targeted at anybody in particular. It is just an umbrella conversation.

CHAIR: Thank you, Mrs Musgrave.

GREEN, Mr Bob, Private capacity

CHAIR: Mr Green, did you want a closed hearing or are you happy to give evidence in a public hearing?

Mr Green: No, I am fine. I thank you one and all for being here. I trust, as Russell was saying, it does not fall on deaf ears, because I voted you guys in on the basis of 'let's get this fixed'. I have had a trauma that I will not get into but I am more than happy to share with anyone in more detail. It was life-threatening and it is ongoing. I have changed my whole interpretation of the system since.

QPS—I was only ever worried about speeding tickets before; today with what I have gone through and the way things have been treated, it is nothing short of a disgrace. We have today youth crime and adult crime. Youth crime is a situation that we bred ourselves through our culture full of bureaucracy to protect them. They have grown up to believe they are bulletproof so they are now rebelling and coming out, doing all these things that are unstoppable or unthinkable. My situation was adult crime, but youth crime has put QPS on the back foot trying to stop it. It has got to the point where they say there is nothing they can do about it because they are minors, this, that and the other, and it is all walked back and it only breeds that culture further. With adult crime, that culture has come through further with bureaucracy trying to get out of taking charge or ownership of a situation. When a victim is pouring their heart out with X, Y, Z, why are they the ones who get interrogated by the police? Why is the culprit let to run free? He does not want to make a statement. 'Nothing we can do about it.' This is a joke.

I had broken tendons, a dislocated shoulder and crushed stomach out of the whole event. It is all a dishwasher: it just goes through and it is all cleaned up. These are evidential things that have stuck with me forever. Just before the cyclone I was on CPR because I had gone. I had ruptured and bled out. It is life-threatening and the result is that my situation is probably terminal now. I am going to fight this to the end. Bureaucracy is killing it for getting in there. It is not 'let's talk about it, let's be seen to be doing something about it'. No, this government said 'we're fixing it', so it should be fixed. We are not here for four years for a free ride: we are here to stomp our feet down as a government and say we are going to change everything for the better. Not maybe do this and do that—we need to. The culture we are all living is just ridiculous at the moment. It is at the point where vigilante things are going to start brewing, and it is only going to be compounded unless someone comes in and says enough is enough.

CHAIR: Thank you, sir. I am sorry to hear about your situation and what you have been through. I can assure you that the government is motivated to change and to fix the problem, as you put it. There is a long way to go. There are green shoots, but there is a long way to go. Thank you for coming along today. There being no questions from other members, I thank you for your time.

Mr Green: We cannot fix the past; we can only change the future.

Mr FIELD: It will take time.

Mr Green: Rome was not built in a day.

Mr FIELD: We have got to this point now for whatever reason, but since we have been here and the new laws were introduced on 13 December, hopefully when those cases start going to court greater sentences will be handed down and get these juveniles off the street.

SANTAGIULIANA, Mrs Carolyn, Private capacity

Mrs Santagiuliana: I was born here in the Redlands so I am a Redlander through and through. After listening to all the stories that have just been before me, I feel very, very saddened to hear what has happened in our beautiful part of the world. I grew up at Redland Bay. Back then, you could go to bed with the windows and doors open and there was nothing like this. That was quite a few years ago.

My story is that I did have like a home invasion, but it was not a home; it was my Titan shed. I was very sleepy that night. I did not hear a thing. They—I am saying they because they came along and cut the six-foot chain wire fence—broke part of the Titan window, got in and stole my lovely 48-inch Husqvarna self-propelled mower and the whipper snipper. I never heard a thing. I have a double-storey home, but they would have had to have passed just near the pool fence to go around the back and get on to Cleary Street. I never heard a word. I woke up to the side door creaking. I never oil it because I think that is fine. I could not believe my eyes, what I saw. The shed was empty. Fortunately—and I say fortunately—I had left the keys in the mower, otherwise, maybe they could have come into the house looking for more.

About the same time, my next door neighbours were broken into. They were downstairs having their dinner and upstairs they were being robbed. Fortunately, my dear friend normally goes upstairs to phone her sister, but this particular night her sister from Sydney phoned her and she took the call downstairs. They were robbed of jewellery and whatever they could find. The park next to where I live was a drop-off drug park. They drop drugs off; however, that has been stopped. The police have done a mighty job there, but there is so much happening in the Redlands.

My late husband has been gone for the past 24 years. While he was in council there was something called Vandal Watch. I was listening to the speaker prior. Vandal Watch continued a few years after he passed, but then it stopped. That was amazing. It was to do with council and security. I do not know how it worked, but being a person on her own I was forever phoning up the number because the youths just loved to get out the boards and come on the cricket turf, go around and around the beautiful fields and ruin everything for the hockey people or the footy or the cricket. That was marvellous. I do not know why that stopped, whether it was the cost or what, but it was called Vandal Watch. I do not know whether you can look into that. It was 30 years ago.

Ms MARR: I think that was through Crime Stoppers initially with councils back then

Mrs Santagiuliana: It could have been. Council were involved with it. It was a marvellous idea, in a way, but now, even with the park next to me, there is not the security going around anymore. I used to love going to Woolworths of a night-time doing a shop. Now I do not bother going. They used to have security there of a night-time, but you do not see it now.

From the speakers who were speaking before, I am not in fear because I have my faith; however, I am always looking behind me if I go shopping. Once upon a time I would not be very wary, but now I am. In saying that, I do hope that something can eventuate. The young people, to me, are very lost souls. I would love to be able to just make things better for everybody. For the speakers before me, I am so sorry all of those things have happened to you. Mine is nothing compared to the speakers before. However, it gives you in a different perspective about everything.

CHAIR: Thank you. Thank you for your presentation today and for acknowledging that it is not necessarily fear that is engulfing you, but probably a hypervigilance that has developed from your experience.

Mrs Santagiuliana: Referring to the lady from Victoria Point, I think we should have something like what was called Vandal Watch. It has just disappeared. It was always on the scene and you felt safe. Now it is—

CHAIR: I believe councils are always looking for new ideas in terms of community safety, so it might be something that you can bring up with them.

Mrs Santagiuliana: I might have to go back and have a talk to them, mightn't I?

CHAIR: Thank you. There being no other questions from members, I thank you very much, Mrs Santagiuliana.

MAHONY-HODGES, Mrs Veronica, Private capacity

CHAIR: I invite you to make a statement to the committee, thank you.

Mrs Mahony-Hodges: I have timed my comments at approximately four minutes and five seconds.

CHAIR: Excellent.

Mrs Mahony-Hodges: I live at the bottom end of a cul-de-sac in Raby Bay. This is a story of six of my neighbours' properties and 10 incidents. Out of respect for my neighbours who are also friends, I shall refer to their homes only as numbers 1, 2, 3 et cetera.

House No. 1: at 8.30 am, three youths access the house by a side entrance which had been just opened for access for a tradie coming to work on the canal side where the main door was open. The owner had just changed clothes and came down the stairs to be confronted by three youths already in the house. They fled when she confronted them. All three were captured on CCTV footage and were well known to the police. The police felt they had been monitoring the house previously to see when her husband left for work.

House No. 2: at 2 am, adults were awoken by noises from the driveway. Two youths were attempting to break into their daughter's car. They fled when confronted.

House No. 3: an unknown hour—the neighbour left the Vespa out down the side of the house and awoke to find it stolen. It was never recovered. Shortly after, their 17-year-old grandson, an apprentice carpenter, had just purchased a second-hand ute on the Friday and was planning on insuring it on the Monday. It was stolen on the weekend. Footage of the crashed vehicle was posted on social media where the grandson recognised the area and recovered his destroyed vehicle. The offender was known to the police. The mother of the perpetrator, who had a good job, offered to cover the \$18,000 cost of repairs to the car, but was subsequently advised by the magistrate that, as she had not committed the crime, there was no need for her to compensate the victim. The victim's parents were visited later by a government agency who wanted them to partake in a round table for the perpetrator to apologise for the distress caused to his victim. The parents declined when told there would be no compensation forthcoming.

House No. 4: broken into three times, despite extensive CCTV footage and alarms. The perpetrators gave the alarms and the cameras a two-fingered salute. Computers, the entire safe and other valuables were stolen. The perpetrators were known to the police.

House No. 5: attempted theft of a Mercedes at 8.30 am when the father did the nearby school drop-off and left the garage door open. The wife came out when she heard the Mercedes' motor running. Three youths were already in the car with a getaway car driven by an older man at the bottom of the driveway. The subsequent police chase made headlines when it extended all the way to the border where NSW police put out road spikes and apprehended them.

Same address, just three weeks ago: the property was broken into overnight when five youths scaled a high wall down the side of the house and broke in from the waterside. This time they got the Mercedes, as well as the four-wheel drive, also the computer and other valuables. The mother was away at the time and the father was upstairs with his three young children and was not prepared to confront them when he heard the noise. Police arrived promptly, but they had already escaped.

House No. 6—my own property: we awoke last year to wind whistling through the main waterside door. The lock had been picked, but the top deadbolt prevented the door from being opened more than an inch, so our security had paid off.

I thought you might all be interested to hear what we call our 'evening secure-the-house arrangements'. This is what my husband and I do every night. Rear garage door—lower lock engaged, upper deadbolt fully in. Main garage door—door down, steel bolts both sides fully engaged, pad bolts inserted and locked. They will never get our garage door up. Cars inside the garage—locked and keys secreted. Laundry door attached to the garage—top and bottom locks engaged and keys secreted. Main double front doors—top and bottom deadbolts engaged, top and bottom locks engaged, anti-intrusion barricade in place. All house windows key locked and waterside glass doors locked and deadbolted. External side gates locked. To deter side access, the bin bay gates are padlocked and the keys secured. Hose reel and any other obstacles we can find in place so if the walls get scaled, they will trip on something when they land. The last thing before retiring—cricket bat and truncheon torch in place beside the bed. We are ex-airline crew and, after 9/11, had annual training by the SAS on the effective use of these defensive weapons. Thank you. How was the time?

CHAIR: Five minutes. Thank you for coming along today and outlining those experiences. Obviously the bill before the committee today is increasing penalties for young people who commit a variety of offences, adding to the ones that are already there. Do you support that initiative?

Mrs Mahony-Hodges: Absolutely, and I might add that my husband and I are both fairly fit, but he is 80 and I am nearly 76, and we are not sure just how much of a chance we would stand against some of these kids.

CHAIR: With your SAS training, I would not like to take you on, I don't think.

Mrs Mahony-Hodges: I have actually practised a couple of them in my day.

CHAIR: There being no further questions from members, I thank you very much for coming along.

ACKROYD, Mr Andrew, Private capacity

CHAIR: I invite you to make a statement to the committee.

Mr Ackroyd: I am from Birkdale, but I originated from South Africa, Zimbabwe originally. We have been subjected to three vehicle thefts so far in Australia. In the SEQ here, we are a little bit better off than our people up north. Up north they have a much bigger situation than we have, so my sympathies go out to those guys. I very much agree with what you guys are doing, increasing the punishment et cetera, but if we cannot get a process working with the community, and we cannot get the community and communication working together with the police, we are going to struggle with getting timely convictions and timely arrests and getting that side of it sorted out. That is something which, for me, is very important.

The other thing is, in terms of arresting somebody, there are a lot of people who are very frightened that if they get into an arrest situation they are going to end up in court for getting involved, especially if it becomes physical at all. The conviction side of it is excellent, and the punishment side of it is excellent, but we need a system going from A to Z. I will give you an example of that. My son's motorbike was stolen in Thornlands on Anzac Day. Reaching out to the community, the community in Waverley and Gumdale gave me five sightings of the bike. This bike has not been burnt yet. It will get burnt at some stage or dumped or thrown in a river or something like that, but it has not been burnt yet. We could have a better communication system back in to the police and a critical structure inside of that. If all of the people within Redlands, Gumdale and down to the Gateway could have one point of contact to go back into the police, and we can use that community, we would have a much higher chance of getting these things resolved.

The bike has been sighted doing, it is estimated, between 150 and 200km/h in Gumdale. That is just asking for something really bad to happen, and I think Mr Russell Field knows what I am talking about here. We have to try to use the strength of the community to work with the police, but if we do not have a proper protocol to move that, it is not going to happen.

The other matter is around the responsibility in terms of what I call 'the castle' protocol which is something that was brought up by the Katter party in terms of being clear on what you can do if you need to get involved to help somebody to arrest, or something like that. We are still not going to get a lot of people actually arrested.

The other issue is: is there any possibility for us to re-look at what we are doing in terms of restructuring how we treat kids who are arrested et cetera? Is there any opportunity, for example, to put a boarding school type protocol on stations, or something like that, where they are away from social media? A lot of this is driven by social media. When people steal vehicles they put it on social media—they spread around about how wonderful it is, and they are racing here and they are racing there, and that kind of thing. We need to get social media out of it and put these guys into an environment where they learn about the community, they learn a trade skill, they work with animals and they start getting back to their original culture, which we need.

The other matter, of course, is the parents. What are we doing in terms of parental control? Parents turn around and say, 'We cannot do anything. Our kid breaks out at three o'clock in the morning and we do not know about it. Our kid does not listen to us, but we cannot do anything otherwise we are going to be in trouble.' We have broken down that parental control. We have broken down the community control side of it. Can we just look mostly at how the community can work better with the police? Have the punishments—that is fantastic—but how do we then ensure that when somebody gets arrested and they go to the courts, the punishment is installed, but the punishment also goes to a place where we are not doing more damage to the child, and the child understands that that is not somewhere where he wants to be.

CHAIR: Thank you, sir. I appreciate you sharing your thoughts with us today. Certainly, detention with purpose is the intention of this government: compulsory education, good rehabilitation programs and 12 months of intensive support post release as well. In relation to information being shared by the community around sightings of vehicles et cetera and how that is coordinated best, I would always encourage people to use the police as their first point of call. Provide that intelligence to the police. They are best placed to coordinate that type of thing. Social media pages seem to be popping up everywhere with community information on it, but direct to police is the best way to go.

Mr Ackroyd: So what we need is a dedicated unit of maybe five or six guys who can coordinate that so that if you have a problem that your neighbour is getting robbed or if you have information, you can feed it to one place. If you go to Capalaba police station, the guy will thank you and you will walk out of there thinking—

CHAIR: 131 444 Policelink will take the information and it will get to the right people—intelligence officers, DTACC and all sorts of coordinators. Police are best placed to coordinate that sort of thing. I encourage that. There being no further questions, I thank you for coming along.

SHEEN, Mr Michael, Private capacity

CHAIR: I invite you to provide a statement to the committee.

Mr Sheen: I live in the area. After listening to some of the submissions I became a little confused and changed my mind a few times, too. I came here with the intention of probably talking about the unavailability of police. I have had a couple of incidents where we have reported to the police and it is not the police's fault but they have been unable to attend quickly. Obviously, they are just under-resourced. I had one situation a few years ago where a guy was probably not only drunk but also drug affected. I was on the phone to triple 0 for over half an hour. They were not able to deploy anyone because I later learned that apparently there was a murder situation happening and all resources were strained. Recently, there was a situation where we had an intruder. I managed to intercept him and take a photograph of him, actually. We called triple 0. The police were unable to attend for about an hour. Fortunately, social media came to the rescue and they identified him. I was able to provide that name to police.

I feel frustration at hearing lots of stories. My submission would be that, as government and different sides of government, you work together. I get sick of seeing people throwing rubbish at each other. Attack the policies but not the people. We would like to see much more bipartisanship happening in the role of government. It is awful seeing the sort of back and forward that goes on. It is very frustrating. My submission would be that all you government members of parliament work together with the other side of politics. That is going to be better.

I know this issue cannot be solved. I think people come in with the idea that you guys are going to solve it. You know that is impossible. You could make it better. I suppose one of the big problems that I see also is that you have these people who are repeat offenders and who are known to police, and sometimes they want to be incarcerated. I think we forget that. Even increasing the penalties sometimes does not work because they want to be incarcerated. That is a problem in itself.

Originally, I came in with the idea that I would submit about this guy who was intruding and he is an adult. The police clearly told me because he did not actually steal anything he got a slap on the wrist. Sometimes the adult time does not even suit the adult crime even though there was not anything particularly—he did break into a couple of doors and he was unable to get anything, I think. Still, it was a slap on the wrist. The police know him. Apparently he does that quite often. You have a difficult job ahead of you, but I wish you could work together. That is my submission.

CHAIR: Thank you very much. I do hear that a lot. I think it was Winston Churchill who said that democracy is the worst form of government except for everything else we have tried. It is adversarial at times as we challenge each other's ideas, but you would be surprised how often we do agree. I appreciate your comments.

In terms of sentencing, the evidence we had from a Townsville defence lawyer is that judges are taking these things into consideration now with the new laws and increasing penalties, but it will take time to make a real difference. As you said, we cannot solve the problem entirely. We cannot hope for a crime-free society but we can certainly hope for fewer victims. That is the priority of this government. There are no questions from committee members.

RAMSAY, Mr George, Private capacity

CHAIR: I invite you to make a statement to the committee.

Mr Ramsay: I am basically a retired locksmith even though I still own a locksmith business at West End. I owned locksmith businesses in Sydney. I was the national president of the Master Locksmiths Association. I have had a fair bit to do with the locksmith industry for the past 60 years.

Where we sit at the moment when trying to recruit apprentices is that the education system and schools say, 'Sorry, George, all our students go to university.' I do believe we need to change some of the ground rules to get young kids into trades. A lot of my successful friends did a trade apprenticeship and then did a university degree. It is not necessary to start at university. Other things I would like to see include school cadetships in all public schools nationally. We also have in Queensland security licensing for locksmith. In the 30 years I have been functioning in Brisbane, I do not think I have ever been asked for my security licence. People are not aware of it. That is another publicity item that should be addressed.

At this time, I would like to see all residents review their home security. We heard previously about a lock on everything. Most important is that if there is a fire you can get out. I think people should consult their local locksmith or security adviser and get their homes tidied up as well to prevent these people getting in. That is my overview of the system.

CHAIR: Thank you, sir. The committee hearing today is in relation to laws that increase sentences for various offences for juvenile offenders. Are you aware of those laws and do you support them?

Mr Ramsay: Yes, I am. I also assist the department of fair trading Queensland with tracking down some of the rogue cowboy locksmiths or security operatives that are charging exorbitant fees for providing a service. I do believe some of the advertising on the internet should be reviewed by the committee to see who is licensed and who the cowboys are who are taking the public down.

CHAIR: Thanks for your presentation. It probably falls a little outside the scope of the bill before us today. I take your point about education. That has certainly come up as a deterrent for young people. Particularly in detention we want compulsory education and opportunities for them to possibly get a trade. There are no questions from committee members.

Dunford, Mr Eric, Private capacity

CHAIR: I invite you to make a statement to the committee.

Mr Dunford: My issue is with hooning. It has been an issue in the area of Cleveland Point, the VMR car park and Raby Bay Boulevard for over 15 years. It has been constantly reported to all the relevant authorities, the Redland City councillor for the area Mr Peter Mitchell and other council officers, the Queensland police and state and federal members. Meetings have been held with all of those authorities; all to no avail.

The VMR or Volunteer Marine Rescue car park is recognised as one of the busiest in Queensland, but it has no security facilities and only minimal CCTV there for people to tune into to see if there is parking available. CCTV was installed by Sightmaster Australia on 1 April 2022 and two months later the Redland City Council had it removed—31 May 2022. Overnight, the activity had stopped. Council stated that the reason was that since it had been installed there was no activity and nobody reported anything. It stopped virtually overnight. Since then, it has started again and now continues from around 5 pm every night up to 2 o'clock or 3 o'clock in the morning. It is intermittent. It is not consistent, but it is intermittent every night of the week.

CCTV was installed by the Redland City Council at Wellington Point in 2020, Wynnum Creek in 2019 and Redland Bay due to hooning in the areas, but Cleveland Point gets absolutely nothing despite the enormous volume of boaties who use it, the popularity of the area and ongoing requests to council. The local member for Oodgeroo, Amanda Stoker, has advised us that she has been able to obtain a \$300,000 grant for CCTV for the Redlands area, but how much of that will be allocated to our requirement for the security of the point area? That is purely guesswork.

Speeding is a major issue on Shore Street North, particularly from Paxton Street to the point, which at times seems like a drag strip. Numerous cars have been rear-ended whilst parked or sideswiped by speeding hoons who rarely stop and address or acknowledge the damage they have caused. This, combined with speeding in the area, particularly on North Street, Sommersea Drive and Raby Bay Boulevard have made it an extremely dangerous area, especially with the large volume of pedestrians and the narrow roadway—that is, Short Street North.

A professional and comprehensive 70-page report was prepared and presented to Mayor Jos Mitchell on 31 October 2024. This covered a road safety and traffic calming study for the area. The Redland City Council acknowledged our concerns on—

CHAIR: Mr Dunford, I am sorry to interrupt but we are over the four-minute mark and I see you have quite a lengthy statement there. I draw you to the bill before us. This is fairly well outside the juvenile crime area that we are talking about. It is not that this issue is not important, sir. However, the committee has a remit to examine the bill before us. I have allowed quite broad statements in relation to juvenile crime that are not necessarily under this particular tranche of offences. In terms of the issues you are bringing up and the reports, I encourage you to continue to do that. Continue to report to the police and the authorities. Do you have any views on the bill before the committee today?

Mr Dunford: I support it. We support the bill. The hooning is mainly done by juveniles.

CHAIR: Is it related to stolen vehicles or is it traffic offences? Would you like to see hooning included as part of the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws?

Mr Dunford: Absolutely. I believe that a lot of it is done by juveniles in stolen vehicles with stolen numberplates. I think that is a pretty well-known fact, which is supported by the police. We had a meeting two weeks ago with Henry Pike. Amanda could not attend, unfortunately. The officer in charge of Queensland police at Cleveland, Senior Constable Graham Stegler, was there as Mike Morier was on leave. Graham said CCTV in the area will help.

CHAIR: Certainly the first tranche of offences introduced unlawful use of a motor vehicle. These offences include endangering a police officer using a motor vehicle, ramming emergency service vehicles, arson of vehicles—setting fire to them. Are they issues in your community, do you think?

Mr Dunford: I do not know if we have had any police vehicles rammed but certainly there have been vehicles sideswiped. One of my neighbours had his car sideswiped out the front two weeks ago. There have been four accidents immediately outside our property in the past three or four years.

CHAIR: You would like to see more CCTV?

Mr Dunford: Absolutely.

CHAIR: And more police probably?

Mr Dunford: I would love to see more police in Queensland.

CHAIR: And increased penalties for hooning offences?

Mr Dunford: Yes. I believe that, under the law, with the first offence for hooning the vehicle can be locked up for a week or something. On the second charge, it is about three months. If they get caught a third time then the vehicle can be destroyed, and it should be.

CHAIR: Thank you for coming along today. We appreciate it.

Mr Dunford: Thank you and good luck.

FOX, Mrs Julie, Private capacity

Mrs Fox: I have called the Redlands home for over 50 years and I am proud to live in Cleveland. A couple of years ago that sense of safety was shattered. I want to share my story. It was just before 5 am when I left home in Raby Bay to meet my running group. I was driving with the roof still down on my Audi convertible. It was a lovely morning. The stars were still out and it was beautiful. In an instant that peace was gone. I heard a loud car speeding up behind me. It swerved around and cut me off sharply. It was like something out of a movie. I wondered what the hell was going on. At first I thought it could be an undercover police car or maybe just aggressive driving. Then two young guys jumped out of the car, one holding a knife, and ran towards me yelling, 'Get the eff out of your car!' I was very vulnerable, having no roof on my car as well. In that split second I had to decide what to do. Driven by fear and determination not to have another car stolen, I hit the accelerator, jumped the traffic island and sped away. The impact has lasted a lot longer than that. I was lucky, and I know not everyone is. The detective who helped me later that day said that many people freeze in those moments and the outcome could have been far worse.

This was not the first time my life was touched by crime. I have had my home broken into four times. Like that lady said, they went right through my house. You could see the marks on the carpet where they walked into every room. I have children. The first time I had my car stolen I was a single mother. I did get my car back; it was only just two years old. They found it 2½ weeks later. It took three months for the repairs so I had no car. As I said, since then I have had another car stolen. Now every time I leave my house I feel nervous. I double-check locks. I look over my shoulder. I do leave early every morning because I am a personal trainer, but the simple joy of a morning drive has been replaced by anxiety and vigilance.

I am sharing my story because I want you to understand what is at stake. These crimes do not just take our possessions—as other people have said, it is very expensive to have all of these things happen to you—but also our peace of mind, our sense of security and our trust in our own neighbourhoods. I would like everyone to consider that. Ordinary Queenslanders just want to go about their lives safely. We need laws to protect us, deter crime and send the clear message that our community will not tolerate this. The only other thing I wanted to say in relation to the carjacking attempt was that it was a nice car. It was a Mercedes. That is why I thought it was an undercover police car or something. It was a nice looking car—

CHAIR: We do not have the money for that.

Mrs Fox:—that is why I was not expecting it to be hooners or people on drugs. They were caught later that day. They had stolen the car that morning from Alexandra Hills. Thank you for having us here today to share our stories. Something needs to be done about it.

CHAIR: Thank you for coming along. Thank you to all of the people who bravely came before the committee. I understand how difficult it must be. I can see the trauma. Those things still affect victims. We heard a lot from people who are against the laws we are bringing in saying there is trauma to the children, but we want to put victims' trauma at the forefront of our consideration. Do you support the laws that are coming in?

Mrs Fox: I definitely do, yes. Listening to everyone before, people are talking about youth crime. I feel that parents of underage children should undergo counselling and learn how to bring their children up properly. Not all of those parents are bad people. I know someone who has a son with a drug addiction and they are very wealthy people, but sometimes they do not learn how to parent their children and they give them too much. I feel that is something that could be taken into consideration.

Ms MARR: I want to thank you and everybody else so much for coming today. When we were deciding where to go across the regions there was a lot of consideration. Thank you to members for coming to us. Amanda Stoker is not here. They asked us to come here to listen to the community. Thank you for supporting this. A lot of events have happened over the years. Crime is getting out of control. It is about listening to people. Nothing had really happened, so thank you for coming along. We are going to move forward with what we are putting on the table. It is good to hear your support. We did say we were going to listen to victims first. A lot of people have come at us and said this is too tough. We said we are going to be tough on crime, and we will be. Thank you for your support. It is very important for us that you have confidence in government.

Mrs Fox: It is difficult to come, but it is great to see something being done about it.

CHAIR: In the introduction it was remiss of me not to recognise that Rebecca Young, the member for Redlands, is present here today. Thank you for coming along. She was into our ear to get down to the bay and listen to people from the Redlands. Is there anyone else who has not spoken yet who wishes to address the committee?

COOPER, Mr Lee, Private capacity

Mr Cooper: I currently live across the road from a sports field with a skate park in it. Over the last year and a half the crime over there has gotten out of control. On numerous occasions we have gone over there to address these kids and have a chat to them, only to be threatened to be stabbed with a tyre iron. Do not be a hero—walk away, leave it to the police. It has gotten out of control. Our neighbours have banded together to try to stop this. We are seeing young kids going to the skate park who are new to the area being bashed, surrounded by 40 kids and being filmed. Yes, we walked over there to stop it and intervene because obviously we are not going to sit there and watch this poor kid get bashed. I have been chased by kids on bikes to my house and threatened out the front of my house. I have had to lock my grandson in my car because I did not know what was going to happen when I got out. I had to call a neighbour to come out and give me a hand.

We have rung the police multiple times. In our area at Redland Bay our police station is not open full-time. I think the doors shut at six o'clock and then we do not have a police station. The closest one is Cleveland. We ring Policelink. I have been told it is potluck if you get someone to come out. That night it was just after six o'clock when the kids threatened us with a knife. I rang Policelink and no-one turned up. Here we are. Luckily, nothing happened that night. There is a lack of police in the area. Redland Bay is growing hugely. With the amount of housing that is going in there and the number of people, I believe we should have a police station full-time. Yes, the council put cameras down in the park, but we also have another park directly across the road so the kids just move there and then those residents have to put up with it. Three months later they moved the cameras and we got the kids back. They do not really care about the cameras. Most of the time they are going back and forth anyway.

We are copping motorbikes in the park at 12, one o'clock in the morning. As a small business owner, I get up at five o'clock to go to work. We have this until 12.30, one o'clock in the morning. I know the police are stretched. I ring Policelink at 11 o'clock at night. Sometimes they turn up; sometimes they do not. We just have to put up with it. The residents in our street have had enough. We do back tougher laws 100 per cent. Our's is probably not as bad as everyone else's I have heard here today, but I believe it has to start at the bottom. These kids have to learn the basics because crime is just growing. If we do not pull it up at the beginning, these kids just go on to bigger things.

CHAIR: One of the offences included in this new bill is going armed so as to cause fear. You mentioned being threatened with a knife or threatened with weapons. That is an offence that is now included in the Adult Crime, Adult Time legislation. Do you support that?

Mr Cooper: Yes, 100 per cent.

CHAIR: I would just make the observation that a lot of people today have spoken about calling police and police resources. I notice there is a police officer in the room who I assume is listening to the community here and taking notes. The QPS do a great job but they are under-resourced. We have experienced a high attrition rate over the last few years which I observed as a police officer. Frustration comes into that. Hopefully, with the new laws we can give police the tools they need to do their job. Thank you for coming along.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Cooper, thank you for coming along. I think I know the skate park you are talking about. I am sure that young members of my extended family frequent there and they have talked about the same things you do. It was revealed a couple of weeks ago that there is going to be an extra 8,000 homes built here in our neighbourhood. On a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the most concerning, can you give the committee an idea how concerned you are that there is going to be an influx of population yet we have not heard anything about the introduction of additional services like full-time police stations et cetera?

Mr Cooper: I reckon at least 7. I believe it used to be open seven years ago. For some reason, I think Redland Bay police station was reduced to minimal hours. It is a big concern. We not only have a new estate opening up down the back of Serpentine Creek Road and all of that down there but also have Shoreline, Villawood, all them going in down there as well. The way it is going, we are virtually becoming a mini Springfield. We definitely need more resources and longer hours at the police station for sure.

Ms MARR: Did you say it used to be open permanently?

Mr Cooper: I believe I was told about seven years ago that it was open permanently and for some reason it was reduced to minimal hours. I do not know if that is true—someone can tell me—but I did hear that.

Ms MARR: I will be looking into it.

Mr FIELD: Maybe there were resourcing issues at the time. Since then more people want to join the force than leave, so hopefully that will turn around. The progress throughout the Redlands is long-term across-the-board, no matter what region you go to. If it was closed down in the past, that is all the more reason to re-open it. Other places will come online in the years to come.

CHAIR: We certainly recognise that population and police resourcing challenges across Queensland have to be addressed along with the laws. There being no further questions, thank you very much, Mr Cooper.

COLLEY, Mr Jason, Private capacity

CHAIR: Sir, I understand that you are a local councillor, as Russell just told me. I invite you to make a statement.

Mr Colley: I come today purely as an observer, but I thought that it would be remiss of me not to take the opportunity to share some of my thoughts. As a local representative, I do have regular touchpoints with the community. Prior to my election last year I doorknocked approximately 3,000 homes in Capalaba and one of the messages that I heard overwhelmingly was that even people who were not impacted by crime directly certainly lived in fear from the messages that they heard from their neighbours and others in the community that it was on their doorstep, whether they had been directly impacted or not. I can think of one specific example where there was a break-in at a set of shops in Capalaba and every neighbour that I spoke to within literally a hundred metres of that area, even though they had not directly been impacted, were fearful about that crime encroaching on to their properties and them being personally impacted by that. I absolutely support tougher sentencing for these juvenile offenders. It is not just those who are victims of crimes, but it is the sense of fear and the heightened sense of trepidation that community members live in when they are aware of offenders being released or not being given tough sentences or punishments as a consequence of their actions.

CHAIR: In the new range of offences that this particular bill deals with, one of them is arson, particularly of stolen vehicles. Is that an issue in your area? I understand that in regional Queensland it has been, but is that an issue here?

Mr Colley: It is not something which has been particularly highlighted to me, no.

CHAIR: As there are no further questions, thank you for your contribution as a local member of council. Thank you.

BAYLES, Ms Kerry, Private capacity

CHAIR: Welcome. I invite you to make a statement to the committee.

Ms Bayles: I am extremely nervous because I had no intention of speaking whatsoever.

CHAIR: That is all right. Take your time.

Ms Bayles: I am a resident of Thorneside. I have lived in the Redlands for 33 years now. I am an ex-high school teacher and I taught in the Redlands for many years. As I listen and sympathise with people who speak as victims and as residents, I keep going back to my experiences as a high school teacher in the Redlands. I came from Victoria and I noticed a marked difference in 1994 when I first came here. I noticed a difference—a slight difference in the behaviour and the respect of students. Over that period of time, before I was literally forced out of a career that I loved—I was a senior teacher; I was a respected teacher who was very competent and very capable—I came to this conclusion: was it me or was it them? I feel that there has been a breakdown in community respect and in parental discipline and many aspects of our society which I really think are at the basis of many of the problems that we have. I do not have the solution to the problem, but when I noticed the difference in the standards of behaviour that I experienced in my career I think that we really need to be looking deeper at our causes of crime. I would feel that, yes, we can deal with what is happening now, but we need to really seriously look back into what has caused the breakdown of many aspects of our society. I do not claim to have solutions, but I certainly am an example of what has happened. It is very serious and it can be addressed—I do not have the skills—but that is really where we need to be equidistant showing our support in parenting and in the programs that we can provide to head off the problems that we are encountering today.

Mr RUSSO: Thanks, Kerry.

CHAIR: Thanks for providing that perspective. I invite members to ask questions, if they have any.

Ms Bayles: I am not geared for this at all.

CHAIR: I promise we will be very gentle. I just wanted to thank you for that perspective and thank you for mentioning the early intervention area. It is not part of this particular tranche of laws, which are designed for the consequence side of it in terms of the consequences for actions side of things, but certainly the government is committed to improving early intervention programs and post detention programs as well, so it is important what you are talking about.

Ms Bayles: It is vital.

CHAIR: I invite members to ask questions, if they have any.

Mr RUSSO: I do not have a question, but thank you for coming forward.

CHAIR: Thank you for coming forward. We appreciate your contribution.

Ms Bayles: You are welcome. Thank you.

CHAIR: As there are no other community members who wish to speak, that concludes this public hearing. Thank you to everyone who has participated today. Thank you to our Hansard reporters. A transcript of these proceedings will be available on the committee's webpage in due course. Thanks to the local member Rebecca Young, the member for Redlands, for largely putting this together and driving this community forum. I declare this public hearing closed. Thank you.

The committee adjourned at 11.51 am.