



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

### Wednesday, 11 December 2024

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## WEDNESDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2024

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The Legislative Assembly met at 2.00 pm.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Pat Weir, Condamine) read prayers and took the chair.



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I acknowledge the Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people of this state and their elders past, present and emerging. I also acknowledge the former members of this parliament who have participated in and nourished the democratic institutions of this state. Finally, I acknowledge the people of this state, whether they have been born here or have chosen to make this state their home and whom we represent to make laws and conduct other business for the peace, welfare and good government of this state.

### TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg)—

[258](#) Final response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to a paper petition (4171-24) presented by the member for Hill, Mr Knuth, from 3,858 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the urgent repair of the current Barron River Bridge and to fast track a new inland highway from the Tablelands to Cairns

Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Hon. Mander)—

[259](#) Final response from the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Hon. Mander), to a paper petition (4166-24) presented by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, and an ePetition (4145-24) sponsored by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, from 117 and 1,123 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to work collaboratively with the Gympie Regional Council to develop multipurpose indoor and outdoor sporting facilities for the region

### REPORT

#### Auditor-General



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General *Report 4:2024-25—Energy 2024*. I table the report for the information of members.

*Tabled paper:* Auditor-General Report 4: 2024-25—Energy 2024 [\[260\]](#).

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

#### Parliamentary Precinct, Christmas Tree



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, once again Timber Queensland has graciously set up a live Christmas tree in the parliamentary foyer. For the past six years the tree has become a Christmas fixture here at Queensland parliament. I express my gratitude to Timber Queensland for their continued efforts to make this possible each year. I recognise the members for Gympie and Bundaberg for their support of Queensland's timber industry as co-chairs of the Parliamentary Friends of Queensland's Forest and Timber Industry. This evening at 6.30 pm, Timber Queensland and the Parliamentary Friends of Queensland's Forest and Timber Industry will officially launch the tree for 2024. I look forward to seeing members at this event.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

#### Public Service



**Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.03 pm): Since I became Premier a little over a month ago, I have had the opportunity to meet many exceptional Queensland public servants across the state in police stations, in hospitals and in corporate offices.

The ministers have done the same. As I have already touched on in the House, the work done by the Public Service to ensure a smooth and steady transition to government has been commendable. I thank everyone in the Public Service for their hard work and dedication in delivering for Queensland. It is an important job.

As a government, we will invest in the sector's strengths and capabilities, making sure it is a skilled workforce that is ready to deal with the challenges that lie ahead for our state. Before the election we were clear that we would stop unfettered outsourcing to big consultants and bring that work in-house. We will ensure there are opportunities for public servants to learn new skills, work in the regions and work with industry. We will not shy away from frank and fearless advice; in fact, we will welcome it. We want our Public Service to be independent and empowered.

To ensure the independence of the public sector, our government has already passed laws to ensure the public sector commissioner is a truly independent position. This government will treat the Public Service with respect. We know good government relies on a strong public service and that is what we will deliver. Their roles are varied, from manning the front line in a hospital to engineering our infrastructure projects across the state. If we are to turn around the broken model of service delivery overseen by those opposite, we need our Public Service to feel empowered to be fearless and frank.

In years gone by, we have seen and heard of a culture where public servants were not given a working environment in which to succeed or thrive. I want the Queensland Public Service to know that will change. I want to make this point very clear: we need more doctors, more nurses, more paramedics, more police, more teachers and more child safety officers. Any suggestion to the contrary is fundamentally false.


Along with developing a culture of capability and empowerment, our government will ensure taxpayers' money is respected. That direction and tone has to come from the top. That direction and tone has been sorely missing. Overnight, Queenslanders have learned about some truly shocking examples where taxpayers' money has been treated with contempt. Firstly, Cross River Rail, which was originally touted as a \$5.4 billion project, is now slated to cost more than three times that figure.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am sorry, Premier. Members, yesterday's display was not good. I am not going to allow that to happen today. Members, be warned.


**Mr CRISAFULLI:** In health there is a budget black hole of \$12 billion. Much of that missing money is for operational expenditure that is in addition to the \$6 billion worth of blowouts in the capital program. I know the responsible ministers will have a little more to say on that today. Those two examples alone show that the previous administration had no respect for taxpayers' money. They were not willing to listen and work with the Public Service to deliver the projects and services diligently; we will.

### Jewish Community

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.06 pm): This morning I met with leaders from Queensland's Jewish community. I want to thank them for their time as well as for their candour in discussions with Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner and I. Many Queenslanders were shocked to learn of the recent developments that have occurred interstate. I want Queenslanders to know this: there is no place for anti-Semitism in Queensland—none. It will not be tolerated. We will call it out at every stage, every day. What we have seen occur in other parts of our country will not be tolerated here.

Whilst we have not seen those kinds of attacks on places of worship here, the leaders advise me of a threefold increase in anti-Semitic incidents in recent months—threefold. There are reports of people being violently assaulted because of the shirts they were wearing, students being targeted at school for the books they were carrying and people being in fear of visiting the places where they worship. That is not on and it is not going to continue in Queensland. However, that has happened here in recent months and we must all call it out. All Queenslanders should feel safe, secure and free from abuse wherever they live and whomever they worship.

### Housing Supply; Workplace Death

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.08 pm): During the election campaign, the Crisafulli LNP government committed to working to ensure every Queenslanders has a place to call home. After a decade of failures under the former Labor government, the LNP are turning

the page. In just over a month we have started delivering the fresh start that Queensland overwhelmingly voted for. Last week, the Cabinet Housing Ministerial Taskforce met for the second time since its formation, with a goal of unlocking the dream of home ownership in Queensland. Over the past 10 years, for many Queenslanders that goal has remained out of reach because it was ripped away by the former Labor government.

The Cabinet Housing Ministerial Taskforce will be responsible for bringing together the major housing portfolios of government to streamline and remove the roadblocks for new housing to be delivered, as we committed to do in our 100-day plan. I, as Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, will work closely with the Treasurer and Minister for Home Ownership, the Minister for Housing and Minister for Youth and the Minister for Local Government to secure Queensland's housing foundation, as we promised we would do before the election.

The new government said before the election that we would work to unlock church and charity land for the community housing sector by the end of 2024, and that is what we have done. Those opposite did not do it for 10 years. We are getting on with doing it.

**Ms Scanlon** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Interject all you want. We have done more in 30 days than you did in 10 years.

**Mr SPEAKER:** To the House, this warning is for both sides: there will be no cross-chamber chatter, no cross-chamber quarrels.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The LNP government are doing in 100 days what the failed Labor government did in 10 years.

**Mrs Frecklington:** They didn't do it in 10 years.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Did not do for 10 years. They could not do it. They could not unlock church and charity land for 10 years. Are you ready for this announcement? It is coming. I can tell they are all in high anticipation.

As part of this commitment, I am pleased to announce to the House that I have advised my department to progress changes to Queensland's planning framework which will streamline development approvals for community facility zoned land and provide improved assessment pathways for social and affordable housing proposals by not-for-profit and charitable organisations.

The LNP government will reset the relationship with local government, which will begin with listening to them and approving housing that aligns with current city and town plans. We will collaborate with local government, not be a big brother bully to local government. It will change and we have reset the planning partnership with local government.

We have also amended the Planning Act 2016 to clarify the powers of the minister to amend or appeal existing SFD declarations. It means the new state government will be able to revisit the decisions made by the former Labor government and ensure developments are in line with existing planning schemes. This decision has been welcomed by local governments across Queensland, including by the Mayor of Noosa, who came under an unhealthy attack yesterday by the former Labor planning minister. The Mayor of Noosa, Councillor Frank Wilkie, said—

This collaborative approach is a positive early sign regarding the two proposed State Facilitated ... projects in Noosa. It gives us some confidence that the two SFD housing projects in Tewantin and Noosa Junction will now involve stronger engagement with council's planning staff, who will seek for the Noosa Plan 2020 and community sentiment to be respected.

We have said all along that we want to work with the state government and developers to reach a compromise that provides the housing needed, but in a way that respects our town plan and the character of our shire.

The state government will work collaboratively with local councils to deliver our commitment to build one million new homes by 2044. Imagine how many more homes could have been built in Queensland if Queenslanders did not have to continuously foot the bill for Labor's budget blowouts. Queenslanders have repeatedly been misled by Labor on the true cost of state infrastructure projects, and few have been as plagued by the former government's mismanagement as Cross River Rail, which the Premier just talked about and I am sure the Minister for Transport will set out in a moment. The Minister for Transport revealed last night the cost has blown out to \$17 billion. Former ministers Bailey and Mellish saw fit to hide the true cost of their failures from Queenslanders. This blowout is the latest in a long list which the LNP have revealed since coming to government in October—


**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence to the comments made by the Deputy Premier and ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, the member has taken personal offence.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw. This blowout is the latest in a long list which the LNP have revealed since coming to government in October. Roma Street station was to connect to Brisbane Live. They forgot to think about how to connect Brisbane Arena and Brisbane Live to Roma Street station, which, at a minimum, we think will blow out by an additional \$500 million—a figure masked by Labor prior to the election again. Our state deserves world-class transport infrastructure but the former government demonstrated time and time again that they were incapable of delivering on time and on budget due to their sweetheart deal with the CFMEU.

Finally, I want to comment briefly on reports that a man has died following a workplace incident on the Fraser Coast. I offer the government's and my sincerest condolences to his family at this time. Everyone deserves to be safe at work. Let me assure the House that Workplace Health and Safety is conducting right now an appropriate investigation. My department will be working around the clock with the Queensland Police Service to find out exactly what has happened, and I will certainly be paying close attention to their findings.

### Cross River Rail

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.14 pm): Before the election, the LNP promised that it would uncover and unravel Labor's mess and publish the true cost of Cross River Rail within 100 days of forming government in the spirit of openness and transparency. Today, I can share with the House that Cross River Rail is likely to exceed \$17 billion in costs—\$17 billion—and it is unlikely to be completed until 2029.

In the beginning, Labor promised Queenslanders time and time again that Cross River Rail would be delivered within a budget of \$5.4 billion and they promised that it would be finished by 2024—this year. Now it is clear just how far that dishonesty reached.

Before the election, the then transport minister Bart Mellish stood in front of estimates and said that we would have majority completion in 2025—next year—and first services in 2026. We now know that that is not possible. The true picture, the grim picture, is that what he claimed was the cost was just to build and maintain the tunnels, and that cost alone has now blown out to \$10.5 billion. On no fewer than 35 occasions Labor members, including the former premier Steven Miles, former transport ministers Mark Bailey and Bart Mellish, former treasurer Cameron Dick and numerous others over that side, came in here and claimed that Cross River Rail would cost \$5.4 billion.

Not only did the former Labor government hide the real cost of the tunnelling works for Cross River Rail; they also hid the cost of the integration works needed to ensure those tunnels were useful, to ensure the trains on the existing rail network could connect to them and to ensure there was stabling to park the trains in and practical station elements like platform doors. Those auxiliary works were hidden in other parts of the budget, in multiple separate line items, deliberately to misdirect Queenslanders from what the real cost was.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I can hear the member for Waterford interjecting, protecting the lady who trained her—former member for South Brisbane Jackie Trad. Jackie Trad's apprentice over there is yelling quite loudly.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I appreciate there is some provocation in the ministerial statement but the fact that I cannot hear the member for Buderim speaks volumes. The noise level is too high, members.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Thank you for your protection. Those auxiliary works were hidden in other parts of the budget in multiple separate line items to hide the true cost. Those opposite might try to claim that we are cooking the books. I saw that reported last night. We are cooking the books! We are inflating the numbers! That is what those opposite say. It is a bit rich coming from them, the same Labor members who cooked the books to hide all of those numbers. Who can forget the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program? The downfall of the now shadow health minister, the member for Miller, was because he hid a \$2 million blowout.


The interesting thing about the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program is that I have been criticised for including the maintenance costs of Cross River Rail in our numbers. I would argue that maintenance is a pretty important thing for a government to perform—just have a look at Callide Power Station. If we set that aside for a second, by their own measure the Labor Party included maintenance costs when it came to the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program yet they hid it on Cross River Rail. They hid it on Cross River Rail so they could mislead Queenslanders. Once again, Queenslanders have been let down by Labor's hollow rhetoric, this time by more than \$16 billion. That is a number that makes your eyes water, and it is one that taxpayers deserve to know about.

On top of that, the real estimated completion date is 2029 when we were told that services should be operating this year—2024; that was the original year. I have been briefed that 2029 is the likely year when services will be available for Queenslanders. All the delays do is drive up costs even further.

By contrast, I can guarantee that the Crisafulli government will fight for every taxpayer dollar. We will make sure that we work every single day to get Labor's Cross River Rail mess back on track. We will negotiate with Cross River Rail contractors to make sure they uphold their end of the bargain. We will make sure that we do not see the significant delays that have already mounted up this year. There have been 140 days of industrial action this year on Cross River Rail under Labor. The former government presided over 140 days of industrial action by the CFMEU on Cross River Rail.

Faced with a choice between siding with militant unions like the CFMEU and siding with the Queensland taxpayer, this Crisafulli government will always side with the taxpayer. The days of Labor taking Queenslanders for granted are done. The Crisafulli government will deliver a fresh start for Queensland.

### Health System, Funding

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.20 pm): It is a hard act to follow.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Let me say that the hard acts to follow are on this side. The hard acts to follow are not on that side.

I have already revealed the mess Labor's health ministers left the hospital building budget in. Upon coming to office we discovered blowout after blowout to the tune of \$6 billion, affecting hospital building projects and patients across the state. From Cape York to Currumbin and from Brisbane to Bedourie, they left a blowout mess.

The story just gets worse. I have since been advised that Labor left the health budget in an even worse state. This budget should include taxpayer money that supports the delivery of health care, community programs and, most importantly, the wages of our frontline workforce. Instead of providing funding for doctors, nurses and other clinicians, Labor decided to doctor the books. In the lead-up to the election, the member for Waterford announced billions of dollars for quick political fixes with no money in the budget to actually pay for them. Like snake-oil salesmen, Labor offered a cure that does not work and that ends up costing people a lot more.

In the budget, Labor claimed they would provide an uplift to Queensland Health's operating funding envelope of just over \$4 billion over four years. That almost sounds like a plan. It almost sounds like a budget. Upon closer examination it is clear that it is just a tricky cover-up for a \$12 billion budget black hole over four years, where the cost of Labor's panicked commitments are not once, not twice, but three times the size of what Labor told Queenslanders they would cost in their last budget. Labor's \$12 billion budget black hole is a result of one-off, short-term funding injections and a failure to plan for known future health service requirements—the growth that we will see in people turning up to hospitals wanting treatment.

The black hole adds to the \$6 billion capital blowout and is only expected to grow as more of Labor's reckless management of the health budget is uncovered. Labor's \$12 billion budget black hole means they overpromised 60 pre-election feel-good announcements, with no hope of delivery, not enough money to support them and questionable procurement processes. We are only starting to look at some of those procurement processes as well. This is not budgeting; it is a kid with a credit card and no job to pay off that credit card bill.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The cross-chamber interjecting will cease.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** This includes the member for Waterford's, Shannon Fentiman's, additions to the unfunded tab. For example, there is \$1.882 billion missing to support the existing enterprise bargaining agreements. Labor did not properly budget to deliver the wages and salaries of our frontline health staff let alone any of their additional promises to the unions. There is no money over the forward forecasts for the EBAs. This \$1.8 billion that was not budgeted for in Labor's last budget will now have to be found.

There was the \$14.8 million for patient-off-stretcher-time initiatives announced in the lead-up to the election—another short-term sugar hit. Labor tried to stand up a short-term, desperate initiative to improve their horrendous record on ambulance ramping. They are due to expire in January 2025. There is no future funding. It is all gone.


**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** This is pretty important. It is not just their unfunded announcements that have led to this budget black hole. It is apparent that they did not even understand the basics of how our hospitals operate. Labor rushed through announcements from the capital expansion program for an additional 2,200 hospital beds, but they did not budget a single dollar to operationalise those beds—no nurses, no doctors, no allied professionals, no orderlies; and no-one to provide care to the patients in those hospitals. It is almost like an episode of *Yes Minister* on that side.

If this sounds familiar to people who have been in this place for a little while then that is because it is. We all remember tunnels without trains, trains without seats, dams without pipes. It is the Bligh Labor government failures writ large all over again. They said they would deliver it, they made the promise and there was nothing left to pay for it all. There is a \$12 billion budget black hole delivered by three of the four worst health ministers in Queensland's history, and they are all still sitting on the other side in this place.

Our government, yet again, is left to clean up the mess left by a dysfunctional Labor government. We will do so. We will do so calmly. We will do so methodically. We will work our way through the problem. We will engage with everyone who needs to be engaged with in respect of sorting it out. The Crisafulli government will fix Labor's \$12 billion black hole mess. We will end the cost blowouts. We will deliver world-class health services for Queenslanders when they need them and where they need them.

### Government Expenditure

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.27 pm): It was Sir Leo Hielscher, one of Queensland's greatest public servants, who said that the job of the Treasurer is to manage the spending of his or her cabinet colleagues. 'It is one versus the rest,' he once said to me. What I have learned over the past month is that the former treasurer cared little for numbers unless they related to becoming the leader of his party.

It was recently revealed that cost blowouts for Sunshine Coast and Chandler Olympic venues are \$181 million; Gold Coast Light Rail, \$330 million; Cross River Rail, \$494 million—let alone the \$17 billion total cost revealed by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads today; Pioneer-Burdekin, \$12 billion to \$37 billion; and CopperString, \$6.2 billion to \$9 billion. This raises the question: what did the former treasurer know and when did he know it?

We know that he ignored international rating agencies like Standard & Poor's which cautioned against waning fiscal discipline. That warning was delivered even before the former government revealed in just three weeks of the election campaign that it would borrow \$33 billion to fund state owned service stations, state owned medical practices, another state owned energy retailer and state delivered school lunches.

We know that the former treasurer ignored Treasury advice that warned of a heightened risk of a credit rating downgrade, large structural deficits and a growing debt burden that would not stabilise. We know that the former treasurer sat on the Cabinet Budget Review Committee. The member for Woodridge knew everything. He knew the true cost of all of the projects for which we have revealed blowouts and project overruns over the last month, but the former treasurer chose to hide it from Queenslanders. He even chose to hide it from this House. The former treasurer told this House on 10 September that the CopperString transmission—

**Mr DICK:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those words and I ask the honourable member to withdraw.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I withdraw.

**Mr Bleijie:** Get that black-and-white photo out.

**Mr DICK:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the interjections by the member for Kawana and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr Bleijie:** I said 'black-and-white photo'. I did not say you.

**Mr DICK:** Yes, you did. You know what you said. I take personal offence.




**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, there is a reason I said that cross-chamber chatter needs to stop because this is what happens. All comments are to come through the chair. They are not coming through the chair. Will you withdraw?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw.

**Mr JANETZKI:** On 10 September the former treasurer told this House that the CopperString transmission project would cost \$6.2 billion. This was despite Powerlink sending their final investment proposal directly to the former treasurer and his office on 2 August detailing a total project cost of \$9 billion. When asked about it, the former energy minister said that he knew about it. So the former energy minister got the same letter as the former treasurer did, yet both have walked away with two completely different numbers and two completely different stories. Who is telling the truth? This speaks to the level of care and diligence the previous treasurer and the previous energy minister brought to their roles and why Queensland now faces not just an outlook downgrade but ultimately a credit rating downgrade too. Queensland voted for a fresh start and a government that respects taxpayers' money, and that is exactly what we are doing.

### Year 12 Graduates; Teacher Red Tape Reduction Working Group


 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (2.31 pm): Today year 12 graduates across Queensland are celebrating after receiving their final results from the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority, the QCAA. More than 55,000 students will have eagerly checked their grades this morning, with 95 per cent of graduates achieving a Queensland Certificate of Education or a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement. I acknowledge nine of the most outstanding students and their parents in the gallery today. Congratulations to them all! They will be here for question time, Mr Speaker. I have assured them that honourable members will be on their best behaviour and I know that you will be enforcing that. I congratulate all year 12 graduates across Queensland who have worked hard to achieve this milestone.

Across Queensland, 1,678 students from 217 schools received a Certificate of Academic Commendation for A grades in at least six general subjects, and 720 students from 170 schools achieved the highest result in at least one general subject or general extension subject. Thirty-eight students also received exceptional academic achievement awards in the following categories: distinguished academic achievers; outstanding academic achiever; highest achievement by an Aboriginal student or Torres Strait Islander student; highest achievement in the humanities; highest achievement in the liberal arts; and highest achievement in STEM. Achieving the QCE is a significant qualification that will underpin a student's post-school success.

I am pleased to announce that the Crisafulli government's Teacher Red Tape Reduction Working Group held its first meeting this week to map out a plan to reduce the unnecessary administrative burden placed on Queensland teachers. The working group delivers on a key commitment of the government's 100-day plan and consists of school principals, unions, heads of principal associations, school business managers' representatives and parent representatives. In addition to the advice of the working group, the Crisafulli government will consult with teachers from around the state throughout term 1 of 2025. The Crisafulli government is serious about supporting our hardworking teachers, and our commitment under the 100-day plan delivers on this. By slashing unnecessary red tape we will give teachers more time to focus on their core work with students. This is critical after a decade of Labor's failure to resource and run our education system, which has left teachers under-resourced and overworked. The Crisafulli government will properly fund schools to: ensure resources are directed to where they are needed most; support teachers by cutting red tape by 25 per cent, giving them more time to focus on teaching rather than paperwork; and boost the number of teacher aides and support staff to place greater emphasis on essential skills such as English and mathematics, helping students meet national standards.

The government understands that students thrive with the right support. Our comprehensive plan provides the funding, resources and opportunities that will allow every Queensland student to succeed. Education is the cornerstone of opportunity, and the Crisafulli government is committed to supporting students, teachers and schools right across the state to ensure students receive a world-class education now and into the future.

### Tourism Industry


 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.35 pm): I am pleased to update the House on the Crisafulli government's 20-year tourism plan as part of delivering on our 100-day action plan. We said we would deliver a

20-year tourism plan that will capitalise on tourism opportunities from the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. I am pleased to advise that this is already well underway. With a project team established to coordinate and drive the delivery of the strategy, our discussion paper, consultation process and government arrangements are all on track. We will begin—indeed, I will begin—the statewide roadshow in Mount Isa next week where the inaugural round table will be held. We want Queensland tourism stakeholders to have their say. We need to hear firsthand about what they need from us to ensure that one of our state's biggest industries thrives.

The newly established Tourism Cabinet Committee, which has also already met, will oversee and drive the development and delivery of the strategy in partnership with industry. Creating and marketing new tourism products and prioritising the industry's future is essential for its growth. Sustainable ecotourism ventures such as the Whitsunday Skyway and Wangetti Trail in Far North Queensland are key examples of what we will strive to achieve. Last month the Premier and I spoke to more than 1,000 delegates at a DestinationQ event, and they are with us. After 10 years of stalling, delays and disinterest from the previous government Queensland's tourism sector is ready to shine.

Let me be very clear: tourism is a vital economic driver throughout the state. We have more than 64,000 tourism related businesses employing 260,000 people. As Minister for the Environment and Tourism, I am excited about the unparalleled opportunities being offered through the combination of these two portfolios. I am confident that by delivering this plan we will make the best use of the green and gold runway being laid out in the lead-up to the Olympics and Paralympics in 2032. We want them to come for the sport and we want them to stay for the state—the greatest state in Australia.

### Volunteering, Parliamentary Inquiry


 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (2.37 pm): Volunteers make a vital social and economic contribution to our state. On behalf of the Queensland parliament, I thank all of those volunteers who joined us today at Parliament House. However, it is alarming that volunteering participation has fallen by more than 10 per cent over the past three years. This has impacted on many community organisations' ability to deliver for Queenslanders and respond in times of emergency.

Today as part of the LNP's determination to reverse this trend our government will be establishing the Supporting our Volunteers parliamentary inquiry. The inquiry will focus on the following areas: restrictions on volunteering caused by red tape; barriers to volunteering for non-volunteers; current restrictions adversely limiting active volunteers; and opportunities for diversification of the volunteer workforce.

Establishing the inquiry delivers on a commitment in our government's 100-day plan. I have been engaging with volunteers and volunteer organisations, and they are telling me there are a range of obstacles stopping people from volunteering—whether it is time, health, financial constraints or just simply burnout. There is so much untapped potential in this sector, as long as we can address these obstacles.

The Crisafulli government wants to be part of the solution with our volunteers. That is why we are committed to removing those barriers and creating pathways to volunteering. We want to make it easier for people to volunteer. This inquiry is the first step towards that. We want to make sure that anyone who has a passion to make a difference in their local community has every opportunity to become a volunteer. The parliamentary committee will be tasked with delivering a report to government by September 2025. Public contributions to this inquiry are vital, and I encourage those groups and individuals with an interest to get involved when the inquiry opens. The experiences of volunteers on the front line need to be heard so that the barriers they face can be addressed. Volunteers require not only our gratitude but also our ongoing support and recognition to continue their good work. By working together, we can reverse the decline in volunteer numbers.

### Women, Economic Security

 **Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (2.40 pm): We are delivering the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for by fostering an environment that allows Queensland women to be economically secure. Under a Crisafulli LNP government, our commitment to this cause is unwavering. As such, it is a cornerstone of my charter from the Premier. Economic security for women is not just a matter of fairness; it is essential for the prosperity of an entire community. When women thrive, families, businesses and societies thrive. Sadly,

this is not the lived reality for many Queensland women who continue to face enormous challenges in careers and their working life, through parenthood and families and in later life due to economic inequality and financial insecurity.

Here are the facts as reported in the March 2024 gender equality report card: the gender pay gap for women in Queensland over a full-time working week is 13.4 per cent, while the national average is 12 per cent; 18.3 per cent of women retire with no personal income; the average superannuation balance gap for women is 19.8 per cent lower than for men; and 30.6 per cent of women rely on their partner's income as the main source of funds for meeting living costs at retirement, compared to 6.4 per cent of men. In addition, in 2023 Queensland women comprised 95 per cent of single parents who received parenting payment, having principal care of a child or children under the age of eight years, and 71.7 per cent of people receiving carer payment in the June quarter 2023 were women. Consequently, many Queensland women juggling parenting and carer roles must therefore take casual work, with their average weekly total cash earnings 32 per cent less than those of their male counterparts. The situation for women living in regional and remote communities is even more confronting.

The economic narrative and outcome has to change for all women. We have the right plan to create an environment where every woman has the opportunity to achieve financial independence and security. We are laying the foundation for a brighter future for Queensland women by implementing measures to create a more equitable and supportive environment. Working alongside the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership and the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, I serve in an economic security team to drive positive outcomes for Queenslanders across all economic portfolios, and that will benefit women.

Women should not be locked out of a job because they cannot afford the cost of jobseeking. The LNP has already announced a \$20 million economic empowerment package aimed at supporting women returning to work after periods of unpaid care work or raising children. To this end, the LNP is delivering a returning-to-work voucher program as part of its election commitment, including grants of up to \$5,000 to cover costs such as work wear, recertification and training, technology, and childcare and job-seeking expenses. Timing will be announced in due course. These initiatives are just the beginning. For many women, economic security is also threatened by domestic violence and a lack of safety where they live. We also have the right plan and policies to improve safety where people live.

Our commitment to enhancing women's economic security is long term, as well as in the short term, and it reflects the government's commitment to creating a more equitable and prosperous future. It is not just a policy commitment; it is a moral imperative to create a brighter future where every woman has the opportunity to succeed and thrive.

## MOTION

### Referral to Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (2.44 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly by 18 September 2025 on:

1. The current state of volunteering in Queensland and the value it contributes, including benefits to volunteers, organisations, communities and the state;
2. The views of volunteers, prospective volunteers and the volunteering sector on the current barriers to volunteering, including excessive legislative and regulatory burdens and other restrictions adversely limiting active volunteers;
3. The current experiences, motivations and challenges for volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations and their recommendations for addressing challenges and improving the volunteering experience;
4. The unique challenges experienced by people from diverse backgrounds, genders, age groups, abilities and locations, and opportunities to improve volunteering participation, accessibility and experience for these groups;
5. The extent, effectiveness and efficiency of current government support at all levels for the volunteering sector in Queensland and sustainable opportunities for improvement;
6. Opportunities for the Queensland government to leverage all portfolios to support growth in volunteering across Queensland, including through hosting the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games;
7. Opportunities to increase emergency response volunteering in Queensland, including how to optimise the engagement, support and integration of volunteers assisting with natural disasters and community recovery;
8. First Nations peoples volunteering, including in remote and discrete communities, and the role of First Nations volunteering in Closing the Gap; and

9. Any other relevant matters, including academic and other diverse sources, and any relevant reports and reviews at the national level and across other states and territories.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Women and Girls' Health Strategy



**Mr MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.46 pm): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. notes the former Miles Labor government's \$1 billion investment in the Women and Girls' Health Strategy;
2. notes that funding was provided for the Women and Girls' Health Strategy in the 2024-25 budget which was supported by the LNP;
3. calls on the Crisafulli LNP government to reaffirm its commitment to all measures contained within the Women and Girls' Health Strategy, including:
  - (a) sexual and reproductive health
  - (b) maternal health
  - (c) mental health and wellbeing
  - (d) all other priority health action areas;
4. condemns LNP Premier Crisafulli for his failure to include measurable KPIs on the improvement of women's health outcomes and access to women's health services in the charter letters of the Minister for Health and the Minister for Women; and
5. condemns the Crisafulli LNP government on their trashing of parliamentary democracy.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, question time will finish at 3.48 pm.

### Queensland Health, Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme



**Mr MILES** (2.48 pm): My question is to the Premier. The Australian Medical Association Queensland has called for the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme to be expanded, not cut. Why will the Premier not listen to the experts and expand the scheme, rather than cutting the program two years early on 31 December 2024?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Firstly, workforce attraction is something that is very important to me, it is important to Queenslanders, and it is important that people in regional Queensland have access to world-class health systems, no matter where they live. In answer to the question from the Leader of the Opposition—he mentions the word 'cut'—it is very difficult to cut something that is not there. It is very difficult for something to disappear when it does not exist. It is impossible for something that was never there to be taken away.

I want to make a couple of points, firstly on where we are and where we need to get to. The scheme that the honourable Leader of the Opposition refers to was a funding commitment over two years of \$40 million. Every single cent of that fund will be honoured. There is one complication though: in order to meet even the first guidelines of that fund, there was about a \$42 million shortfall. Over and above the \$40 million, there was a \$42 million shortfall—over and above.

The minister has had to mop up a lot of mess—more on that shortly—such as capital works that were not properly scoped and operational budgets that were not properly funded. The irony is that the person in charge of the health disarray is now doing financial strategy for those opposite. When it was pointed out that money was not there, she said, 'That was for the midyear.' Unfortunately for those opposite, that is not quite how it works. If money is not in the budget, it is not there.

I return to what the honourable minister has had to do. Firstly, he has honoured every single cent that is in the budget. Secondly, he has had to find twice that amount just to keep the scheme on life support. I say to all of the people in this room who represent rural and regional Queenslanders that we understand the pressure their communities are under. We understand the fact that many of their communities have not had doctors. The minister will continue to find ways to attract and retain the best and brightest.

The best kind of scheme that exists is one that can bring people from interstate to Queensland, because when they go to regional areas they will fall in love with those communities, they will understand they are part of those communities and they will stay for the long haul. What we are doing is bringing forward a scheme to make sure that people stay for the long term in rural and regional Queensland.

### Cross River Rail

**Mr MILES:** My question is to the Premier. In reference to the Crisafulli LNP government's decision to include trains and future maintenance expenditure in the total costings for Cross River Rail, will the Premier confirm the LNP government will include rolling stock, future maintenance and all other associated costs in the total cost of future major projects, including Sunshine Coast Rail to Maroochydore?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** When getting ready for question time today, the one question I did not expect would be one about Cross River Rail. I have to say I was expecting questions on Cross River Rail, but I was expecting them from around this side. Alas, the same strategy that has derived the debate in the Making Queensland Safer laws where we have seen two different positions from former frontbenchers that are completely and utterly contrary to what they should be on the same team has permeated this question today. What we have inherited—

**Mr Miles** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, you asked the question. I suspect you would like to hear an answer.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** What we have inherited with Cross River Rail is a big mess, and it is a big mess because those opposite not only could not manage money, but they were not honest with money. What the minister has done is brought transparency back to the arrangement. The best way to answer this would be to go back and go to the video referee from those estimates. I am mindful of what happened in those estimates. They were different ministers, but the cover-up was the same. Every time the question was asked, there was ducking, diving and weaving, and we have seen—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question that the Leader of the Opposition asked was specifically about whether the Premier would confirm the LNP government's intentions. It was not a question about estimates processes. I ask you to bring him back to relevance to the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, there was a particular part of the question about future projects, so if you would address that in the time you have left.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Indeed, Mr Speaker. The best barometer of how one conducts themselves in the future is how they conducted themselves in the past. The cover-up that has been permeated from those opposite shows just how deep the cover-up is. When I look across to the other side, I see the same faces—the guilty party. There are the same ones. There is only one face missing, and that is the face of the person who stood on the world stage and said it would be open by 2024. She has now gone—she was rolled in a midnight coup—but the rest of the faces remain the same. This project is three times over budget. What happened from the honourable minister is the minister gave the barometer of how things should be done, what costs should be included—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader, I think your request was being answered just then, but I will listen to your point of order.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, standing order 118(b) requires the answer be relevant to the question. Nowhere, even after you drew the Premier back to the detail of the question, has he attempted to answer that question. I will ask you to ensure the answer is relevant.

**Mr SPEAKER:** It is my view that the Premier was in the midst of doing that as you rose to your point of order.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Of course I will, Mr Speaker, but when you get a Dorothy Dixier, you lose all three minutes. The same barometer as the one that caught out the member for Miller will be used on this. It is the same costings. Good governments plan for the capital, good governments plan for the operational and good governments plan for the maintenance.

## Government Expenditure

**Ms MARR:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Will the Premier explain why respect for taxpayers' money was a fundamental pillar of the LNP's plan for Queensland, and is the Premier aware of any contrasting approaches?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the member for Thuringowa for an excellent question, the second best question I have received today. To the member for Thuringowa, I say to you that you have a track record of someone who understands the value of small and family business and value of respect for your money. I want to welcome you into this House and thank you for the way you have taken representation for your community.

I am asked about the fundamental pillar of respect for taxpayers' money. It is important. In fact, it is fundamental to the way that governments should conduct themselves. Good governments have respect for people's money. In the end, it is their pockets where the money comes from. It is their sacrifices that put that money in their pockets. It is their time away from their families that allow them to earn that money. Taxpayers will pay money and they will make a contribution, but they want to know that their government respects them and respects their money. Ultimately, that is what we all come into this place for, with different values and different beliefs, but at the heart of what we do should be about providing the kinds of services and creating the kind of state that Queenslanders want to see for themselves and their families. However, at the heart of it is respecting people's money.

I know that the former government had walked away from that when there was a comment made in the dying days by the then former treasurer. The former treasurer was in fact goading the rating agencies to dare to change their outlook. He was wearing it like a badge of honour because he knew what was coming. He knew how bad the books were. He knew what he had created. Rather than do a mea culpa and say, 'We will live within our means and show fiscal discipline,' he wore his blowouts like a badge of honour and they should be hanging around his head in shame for a long, long time.

When I look at the lack of discipline in delivery of projects, a big factor of that has been caused because of an inability to manage best principles, best practice. Of course it is. We all know it. We all know what BPIC did. But in the end—

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I will take the interjection. I must take the interjection from the shadow treasurer. The shadow treasurer said there is no impact on Cross River Rail. The reason I take the interjection is I cannot predict what future questions may come, but I am sure the Minister for Transport may have a little bit of fun with that interjection in a little while. I will say this: the conditions that were sown, the reason for the blowout on Cross River Rail rests with those opposite. They could not manage money, they could not respect money and, on the back of it, Queensland taxpayers have been taken for a ride.

## State Finances

**Mr DICK:** My question is to the Minister for Finance. Why has the LNP government delayed tabling the audit *Report on state finances* for 2023-24 and, in the absence of the tabled report, will the minister advise the House what is the reported net operating balance and the net general government sector debt figure for that financial year?

**Mr Nicholls:** Whatever it is, it's going to be bad.

**Ms BATES:** Yes. Let us talk about the books. Let us talk about cooking the books. Let us talk about the worst treasurer that Queensland has ever seen—right there. How many times did the former treasurer say he was not going to introduce any new taxes, and how many taxes did he introduce? We now know I am actually not up against the shadow treasurer. I am shadow-boxing Jackie Trad, because Jackie Trad is the real shadow treasurer and the puppeteer. We know that the current debt in Queensland—thanks to the world's worst treasurer over there—is \$72 billion.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Waterford, you have had a fair go today. You are warned. Today I will write it down. It will be noted: you are on the list.

**Ms BATES:** My job as the finance minister is to set the discipline across government for responsible expenditure. That might be different from what the former treasurer did. I am cognisant of my responsibility for agencies to maintain their own budgets. My job is to identify cost escalations and report them to the Premier as required.

**Mr Crisafulli:** Won't that be refreshing?

**Ms BATES:** Yes, exactly. The debt that is projected for Queensland in 2027-28 is \$172 billion. Let me repeat that: \$172 billion in 2027-28. That is \$7.7 billion in interest repayments alone. The total operating expenses for that period of time are 40 per cent higher than three years ago. Which former government is risking our credit rating yet again? Which treasurer sat there and allowed us to look at a downgrade from AA+? Which treasurer was in government in 2009—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to relevance. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition asked why the government has delayed tabling the audit report on state finances for 2023-24.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister is outlining a broad and detailed response in relation to her responsibilities, the government's agenda and the legacy left by the former government. I put to you that she is providing a fulsome response.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister is giving a financial report in this answer. There was reference to a specific report, if the minister could mention that in her answer. Minister, you have 41 seconds left.

**Ms BATES:** Let me continue. Who is risking our AA+ credit rating? It is the former treasurer, who was part of the former Bligh government that sat around that cabinet table and lost our AAA credit rating. On top of that, they sold billions of dollars of our assets without telling Queenslanders. It is a joke that those opposite come in here after they have completely destroyed Queensland with a cost-of-living crisis and a health crisis—crisis after crisis. It is not late. The Treasurer will be tabling it tomorrow.

### Infrastructure

**Mrs POOLE:** My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier advise how the Crisafulli LNP government is working to build critical infrastructure including housing, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the honourable member for the question. Yes, we are getting on with the job of building the infrastructure the state needs and that the Labor Party failed to properly fund. They did not take account of their cost overruns and blowouts and there was no ministerial accountability. That is why we have put in every charter letter for our ministers 'accountability and transparency'. That is why the Minister for Transport has released and been up-front with the people of Queensland about the Labor blowouts, particularly on Cross River Rail. While I am talking about Cross River Rail, I would have loved a question from the Labor Party about Cross River Rail as well. Bring it all on! We have lots to talk about, particularly when you talk about Labor Party budget blowouts. I never thought I would see the day that Cross River Rail—they originally said it was around \$4.55 billion—would cost three times more, at \$17 billion. What is worse, they hid it from Queenslanders. They failed to tell Queenslanders. They failed every time to tell Queenslanders.

More bizarrely, when I became Minister for Infrastructure and we started releasing the blowouts of the former Labor government, I recall the opposition leader at the time, only a few weeks ago, coming out and saying, 'We are not aware of these blowouts. I have no knowledge of these blowouts.' Two days later, the member for Aspley, from opposition, came out and proactively released Labor Party blowouts. They are his government's blowouts. I have never seen an opposition be so up-front with their own blowouts! They could not be transparent in government. He goes, 'Here are our blowouts'—despite the fact that his leader said only two days earlier, 'We are not aware of any of these blowouts. We have no knowledge.' Well, someone does!

**Mr Mickelberg:** With friends like that!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection: with friends like that! Who needs a nightwatchman like that? Here is the thing: if the member for Aspley knew about the blowouts, I would hazard a guess that the people who sat on the Cabinet Budget Review Committee knew about the blowouts—including the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

When it comes to housing, this morning the former minister for planning was whingeing that we are getting on with the job and doing in 30 days what they failed to do in 10 years. I have to say, the Property Council lunch last week takes the cake. When they were in government the Labor Party were never really represented at the Property Council lunch, but a free lunch in opposition? They were all there. They filled a table. They were having a good time, drinking fine wine on the Property Council dime—that is what they love in opposition. I made a great speech. When I spoke about the CFMEU tax, all their heads were down. The crowd was cheering the new government and the opposition

members' heads were down as I was condemning the Labor government. They all had their heads down; they wanted to get out. If not for the glass of Chandon in front of them, they would have bolted. What a disgrace the former Labor government is. We will fix the blowouts. We will build the infrastructure of the future.

*(Time expired)*

### Coal Royalties

**Ms FENTIMAN:** My question is to the Treasurer. Given the Australian dollar is underperforming against the budget forecast, how much additional coal royalty revenue is Treasury expecting to receive, and will the Treasurer use those funds to reinstate the Workforce Incentive Attraction Scheme axed by the health minister?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I thank the honourable member for the question. What a surprise that the shadow treasurer's first question is the launch of another scare campaign, another desperate scare campaign. We have seen it time and time again from the former treasurer and now we are seeing it again here today. It is time for those opposite to start thinking through their question time strategy because we have made it clear that our tax plan is to retain coal royalties across the forwards.

The shadow treasurer should understand that coal royalty revenues are only reportable every couple of months. Let me assure the shadow treasurer that those coal royalties will be delivering the services that Queenslanders so desperately need. For too long we have seen the project overruns, the cost overruns and the cost blowouts from those opposite. We have seen that because they have failed to respect taxpayers' money for too long.

While I was on that side of the House I repeatedly said that those opposite collected record revenues and record taxes and undertook record borrowings and yet—

**Mr Nicholls:** Rivers of gold.

**Mr JANETZKI:**—they had revenue rivers of gold; I will take that interjection. The former treasurer collected \$70 billion more in under four years—more than what he projected. They squandered record rivers of gold. Despite those record rivers of revenue gold we saw services declining across this state. We saw record ramping under the now shadow treasurer's watch top 45 per cent.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am taking a point of order, member for Mudgeeraba.

**Mr de BRENNI:** I rise to a point of order pertaining to relevance. Surely the Treasurer has been briefed on this matter and we would ask him to answer the specific question: how much additional coal royalty revenue is Treasury expecting to receive?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Treasurer, you have 48 seconds remaining.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Record rivers of revenue gold were collected and yet we were delivered 45 per cent ambulance ramping from the now shadow treasurer; record numbers of homelessness, record numbers of homeless across Queensland living in tents, in cars and under bridges; record numbers of victims of crime in 289,657. We know coal royalties are fundamental: \$15 billion in 2022-23 and \$10 billion last financial year. However, coal revenues are weakening this year and that makes it even more disappointing that those opposite had no respect for taxpayers' money and it is Queenslanders who will pay.

### Transport Infrastructure

**Miss DOOLAN:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. How will the minister restore respect for taxpayers' money on major transport projects, and is the minister aware of any contrasting approaches?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I thank the member for Pumicestone for her question.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We would like to hear the minister, please.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Thanks, Mr Speaker, for your protection. I thank the member for Pumicestone for her question. I would like to acknowledge her tremendous maiden speech to the parliament yesterday. It was refreshing to have a fresh face, a strong advocate for the people of Pumicestone. I



know the member for Pumicestone spoke about connecting her community, improving roads and improving public transport in her community. As an LNP government, we are focused on delivering for the people of Queensland.

I am asked how I will have respect for taxpayers' money when it comes to major transport projects. The first step is accountability; that was missing from the former Labor government—both the Palaszczuk Labor government and the Miles Labor government. They had transport ministers who presided over failure after failure and were not held to account. They had a transport minister who is now the shadow transport minister who hid a \$330 million blowout on Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3. He hid it. A decision was made in September but he did not mention it to Queenslanders for the entirety of the election campaign, despite going to the Gold Coast and doing nice little videos about Gold Coast Light Rail. That tells Queenslanders everything they need to know about the Labor Party and the member for Aspley.

What we have revealed today is a cost of at least \$17 billion for Cross River Rail. It is \$17 billion. They said it would be \$5.4 billion. Why is it \$17 billion? It is Labor mismanagement, Labor incompetence and a failure to hold incompetent ministers to account. The Labor Party is owned lock, stock and barrel by the CFMEU. I hear the now shadow treasurer saying, 'BPIC doesn't apply to Cross River Rail.' I beg to differ. In fact, I can reveal to the House that on 26 February 2020 the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority set up a compliance unit and that compliance unit was tasked with 'alignment to best practice principles'—owned by the CFMEU—and what is the consequence? The consequence is 140 days of industrial action on the Cross River Rail job this year—140 days because of Labor's failures; 140 days because those opposite will not stand up for Queenslanders.

Queenslanders deserve better. Queenslanders deserve a government that will respect and protect every single hard-earned taxpayer dollar. That is what this LNP government will do. We will respect every single taxpayer dollar and we will deliver projects on time and on budget.

*(Time expired)*

### Gender-Based Pay Equity

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will have silence for the next question.

**Ms GRACE:** I am happy to give them a lesson if they want.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for McConnel, just focus on asking your question.

**Ms GRACE:** My question is to the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security. In light of the Special Commissioner, Equity and Diversity not being reappointed, can the minister outline how the LNP Crisafulli government will address gender-based pay equity in Queensland?

**Ms SIMPSON:** I rise to respond to the question from the member opposite. As I understand it, the member was outlining how that term was due to expire in January and that it was not extended by the previous government prior to—

**Mrs Gerber:** Wait, wait, wait. You guys didn't extend the term and you try to blame us?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Currumbin, another display like that and you will be warned.

**Ms SIMPSON:** What an extraordinary question time when we seem to have another own goal from the Labor opposition. This is another example of where they failed to plan and failed to put these things in place, as we are finding across multiple areas and multiple portfolios.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Labor's approach to inclusivity is to not do their job—to not look forward, to not in fact assure—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, you are now warned.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Labor have asked the question and now we find out that they failed to do their job. When they were coming to an election they failed to fund many areas that they were talking about publicly. However, it was shown behind the scenes in the budgets that they failed to put funding in place and they failed to have appropriate processes in place in regard to continuity and certain positions. That was revealed by their own admission and the questions they ask. It is a bit rich. How many other examples will we find of this dysfunctional, chaotic and disgraceful Labor opposition? Now we are in

government they try to say, 'You are doing X, Y, Z,' when they were in fact the ones who when in government had their hands on the levers and failed to put appropriate processes in place. We are committed to ensuring that women continue to have a voice—

**Mrs Gerber:** And economic security.

**Ms SIMPSON:**—and economic security, which was a bit light on with Labor. All they seemed to do was put up the cost of living to make it harder for women, particularly in rural and regional areas, because the economic burden of the cost of living often sits with those who are most vulnerable. As the statistics I outlined this morning show, a lot of women, particularly in rural and regional areas, are vulnerable; they are economically vulnerable. That is why it was a key part of the charter letter of our Premier, David Crisafulli. He has said that under an LNP government, 'We want to ensure that there is a focus. When you are including women, you include their financial and economic security. It is vital.'

We are committed to that. It is framed very clearly as part of our three-person finance team—not a three-man finance team but a two-women-and-one-man finance team; thank you very much, Mr Treasurer—because we are committed to ensuring not only that women have a voice but also that their economic security is front and centre as part of what we do.

### Health Services

**Mr JAMES:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister outline how the Crisafulli LNP government will respect taxpayers' money by delivering public health services that are properly funded, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I thank the honourable member for Mulgrave for his first question in this place, and welcome to the honourable member for Mulgrave! What a massive victory it was for him on 26 October. As a former mayor, deputy mayor and councillor in Cairns, the member for Mulgrave is a strong advocate and has been a strong advocate and a relentless fighter for health services in his region. What a welcome breath of fresh air it is to have the majority of members from that region represented in the chamber by the LNP government, because the previous lot did not do much of a good job and the one remaining member is not doing any job at all.

The member for Mulgrave's actions stand in stark contrast to those of members opposite, who presided over the worst ambulance ramping in the country and record long waits for elective surgery and specialist appointments. In fact, Labor's health crisis means that there are 3,000 people waiting for elective surgery in Cairns—can the member for Mulgrave believe that?—left in the lurch by the former members who represented Far North Queensland. We have commenced the rollout of our health plan to reduce ambulance ramping and stabilise the waitlists. I have directed Queensland Health to prepare for the publication of transparent real-time data—something that those opposite refused to do for over four years.

The member asked me if there are any alternative approaches, and there is an alternative, member for Mulgrave. That alternative—it is not much of an alternative—is the Labor alternative. We know what the Labor alternative is because it was in its plan, and its plan was to leave a \$12 billion black hole when it comes to funding the delivery of services. That alternative is a trail of unfunded commitments and an inability to plan for the future. That alternative is a \$12 billion budget black hole on top of a \$6 billion unfunded capital expansion program.

What does that unfunded black hole look like? It is already a \$1.8 billion failure for the existing workplace agreements supporting our healthcare workforce. We know that Labor does not care about our Queensland Health workforce. Who can remember the Queensland Health payroll debacle? They are all still there. The member for Woodridge and the member for McConnel still sit around the table. The healthcare budget and the payroll both failed. However, we cannot forget the other expenditures that the former member for Mulgrave and the former member for Cook failed to fund, and there is a litany of those failures. Only the LNP has a plan to restore healthcare services and deliver them throughout Queensland.

### Government Expenditure

**Mr McCALLUM:** My question is to the Minister for Finance. Yesterday the Premier said that \$37 billion in government owned corporation borrowings would be spent on schools, hospitals, roads and community safety. Can the minister advise the House how government owned corporation capital investment will be reallocated to operational expenditure and where that finance will come from?

**Ms BATES:** I thank the member for the question. We all know all of the blowouts that happened under the former government. Let us talk about government owned corporations such as Callide C. When I was on my trade mission to Japan and Seoul they talked a lot about Callide C and the GOCs. They talked about the fact that the former government could not even say the word 'coal'. The member knows full well that all of the funding that was given in the last budget—the former government's budget—will be utilised right up until our next budget. Government owned corporations were under the control of two shareholding ministers, if I recall—the former minister for energy and the former treasurer. What has happened with those government owned corporations? What did happen with CS Energy? What happened there? It went kaboom! Callide C went kaboom under the former government. Only this government is giving a maintenance guarantee so that all of those ongoing services will continue to happen.

**Mr Crisafulli:** Pioneer-Burdekin.

**Ms BATES:** I was asked about the Pioneer-Burdekin Dam, too, when I was overseas. How many billions of dollars was that going to blow out? How much did those opposite hide from Queenslanders? We said in the lead-up to the election and have said since the election that all money from coal royalties or any other revenue stream that comes through will be spent on Queenslanders, not on the Labor Party's desperate attempt to get itself re-elected. We saw a dirty, stinking, rotten campaign from the former government, and those opposite have still not stopped doing it as they tried it on again yesterday.

We will continue to make sure that Queenslanders get the money in their pockets that they need. We want to make sure that they have access to healthcare services, that they are safer in their communities, that they are not paying for the Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government's blowouts and debts. We want to make sure that they can get into the housing market and that they have a roof over their heads. Those opposite are the laziest opposition on record and have to get Jackie Trad to come up with the questions because they cannot get someone to take the job in the opposition office. We know that Jackie Trad is behind the whole lot. Everybody knows it.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Ms BATES:** We all know it, as do all of their CFMEU mates and their ETU mates.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I doubt anybody can hear the answer to this question.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister has had quite a substantial amount of time to answer the question. The question was quite clear about the reallocation of government owned corporation capital investment to operational expenditure, but we are yet to hear about that. She has strayed way off the question into personal attacks.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I believe that right at the beginning the minister did address part of that. Minister, you have 12 seconds apparently to round your answer out, if you wish to use it.

**Ms BATES:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Queenslanders made their decision at the last election. They saw what this government was doing to them. They saw how much waste happened under those opposite. As I said, the former treasurer was so bad that he was beaten by a cardboard cut-out—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Ms BATES:**—with some \$37 billion in debt—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Time has expired.

**Ms BATES:**—and beaten by a cardboard cut-out.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Time has expired.

**Ms BATES:** He has to sit over there in opposition for the first time—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister!

**Ms BATES:**—in his life.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms BATES:** Every one of you do not—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I agree that the clock did not help that situation. Let us take a breath.

## Government Expenditure

**Mr HEAD:** My question is to the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership. Will the Treasurer outline how he intends to ensure Queensland taxpayers' money is respected in his role, and is the Treasurer aware of any previous approaches that contrast with this?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I thank the honourable member for the question. Together with the outstanding Minister for Finance, we plan to restore respect for Queensland taxpayer money—and don't we need it!—and the finance minister and I are preparing to deliver that respect.

The honourable member raises the question of the contrast between what we as the new Crisafulli government will do compared to what the previous government did, and it is a sharp contrast. It is a sharp contrast between how we will approach the task at hand, in showing respect for taxpayer money, and what those opposite did.

Let us take a look. They hid project overruns and cost blowouts and we reveal them, as we have seen again today with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads actually telling Queenslanders the truth about the cost of Cross River Rail from \$5.4 billion when I first arrived in this House in 2016 to a staggering north of \$17 billion. Let alone the project cost that they hid on Pioneer-Burdekin: \$12 billion to \$36.8 billion; on Borumba from \$14 billion to \$18 billion; on Powerlink's CopperString from \$6.2 billion to \$9 billion, which the Treasurer knew all about.

The former treasurer waved through ambit spending claims at CBRC. Who knows if he ever read the submissions to CBRC. Here on this side of the House already we have saved the taxpayer \$54 billion by pausing BPIC at \$17 billion and ending Pioneer-Burdekin at \$36.8 billion. On that side of the House they ignored the warnings from Standard & Poor's. Here in this government we take them seriously. On that side of the House the former treasurer talked down our prosperity-driving industries here in Queensland. They picked fights with the property sector, although, as the Deputy Premier has noted, they all showed up for lunch last week with the Queensland Resources Council. The former treasurer used to force GOCs to withdraw their membership from the QRC and refused to let public servants go to QRC lunches. We do not talk down our key industries. We believe that Queensland is open for business. That is our approach on this side of the House. The legacy of those opposite is writ large in the cartoon from this week, a statue to their fiscal ineptitude and the Treasurer's failures. I table that cartoon.

*Tabled paper:* Cartoon, undated, captioned 'Queensland Fiscal Legacy' [261].

## Climate Change

**Mr BERKMAN:** My question is to the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation. Last time the minister held this portfolio in Campbell Newman's cabinet he oversaw the abolition of the office of climate change. Does the environment minister still hold the same view he expressed then that he was not 100 per cent convinced and 'always going to be a bit sceptical' of anthropogenic climate change? I table a 2012 *Brisbane Times* report by way of verification.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Brisbane Times*, dated 5 June 2012, titled 'Environment minister's climate science doubts "refreshing"' [262].

**Mr POWELL:** What a surprising question from the member for Maiwar. I will address the content of the question in due course, but I will note a couple of things. I believe the member for Maiwar accredited the fact that he is in this chamber to this—and I do apologise to all my colleagues and to those opposite that he is here—because, yes, it is true, in 2012 we did axe the office of climate change. One of the employees of that office was the member for Maiwar. He subsequently determined to run for politics. He has stated that quite clearly.

What I would say to the member for Maiwar, before I answer the substantive aspect of the question, is that as you would have rightly noticed, the office of climate change has gone to the Treasurer's department and is part of our focus on renewable energy and it is through that that we have discovered the extraordinary cost blowouts on projects like Pioneer-Burdekin. Those projects were a scam. As I have sat preparing reports to the likes of UNESCO around our ability to deliver the targets that we have signed up to, we have had to tell the likes of UNESCO that those opposite had absolutely no way of delivering on those targets when projects like Pioneer-Burdekin were going to cost well over \$30 billion.

**Mr Crisafulli:** It was a con!

**Mr POWELL:** I will take the interjection from the Premier. It was an absolute con. They were conning not only the people of Queensland and this nation of Australia but also the international community on what they believed they could achieve through their crazy Energy and Jobs Plan. On this side, under the leadership of the Treasurer and his focus on delivering in terms of renewable energy, we will meet those targets. We will do them in a far more responsible way, trusting—

**Mr BERKMAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister is nearly out of time and he is yet to answer the question about whether he maintains his climate sceptical views. I would ask him to return to the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The question had more than one part. The minister has responded to one. It is up to him to respond to the others.

**Mr POWELL:** Let me conclude on that aspect. We will deliver on those targets. We will do it in a responsible way. We will do it by respecting our taxpayers' dollars. We will do it by working with the private sector to deliver on those. Whilst the question was seeking an opinion, I will say this: I said when I was the environment minister previously that I believed in climate change. I stand by those comments. How the likes of a number of news outlets chose to report that is up to them, not me. I stand by my comments previously. I stand on my comments again.

### Legal Profession

**Mr KEMPTON:** My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. Will the Attorney outline her approach to working and meeting with key stakeholders and is the minister aware of any other differing approaches?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** How good is it to welcome the member for Cook back after a few years. This member has a long history in representing Indigenous people in the cape. He is also a very fine lawyer. It is wonderful to have him in this House. The member talks about how we on this side are consulting. I made my first courthouse visit to Kingaroy and then I went to Beenleigh where I met a judge who said they had never met an Attorney-General in their life. It is one of the busiest courthouses. I met DV workers, I met with children reps.

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Yes, it was in the member for Waterford's area and I am not sure she has ever been there. I then went and visited Townsville where I went to the courthouse. They require much needed upgrades and these guys, of course, ignored them. Another blowout there. In Townsville I think they said it is the first time they had seen an Attorney-General. Those on that side of the House certainly did not ever bother lowering themselves to visiting the DPP and Legal Aid. It was absolutely disgraceful.

When the Premier and I visited the Women's Legal Service we talked to them about Labor having cut \$140 million and nearly losing the \$800 million worth of federal funding to the community legal sector. I had to go to Melbourne and fight for that funding. I have been to see the Chief Justice, the Chief Magistrate and the Chief Judge. I have met with statutory bodies, including the CCC. I have also been to Rocky where I visited the courthouse. I went to visit judicial officers and met with court staff. I went to the DPP, Legal Aid and Central Queensland Community Legal Centre. I have met with the Bar Association and the Law Society.

The member for Cook asks what are the alternate ways of consulting. Those opposite had all morning to work out their approach to question time. That was the most disgraceful start to question time that we have seen in this House in a very long time. My office wrote to the opposition and offered them a briefing from 8 am to 8.45 am on Tuesday, 10 December and asked them to please confirm by return email. There was complete silence. I apologise, we got an email back that read, 'Thank you for contacting the office. We receive a high volume of correspondence,' and then nothing. The public servants turned up and nothing—crickets from those opposite.

### Lake Eyre Basin

**Mr RYAN:** My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. Does the minister still stand by calling protecting the Lake Eyre Basin an atrocious decision and will the minister reverse the ban on new oil and gas on the Channel Country flood plains of the Lake Eyre Basin?

**Mr LAST:** I thank the member for the question. We know that on the eve of Christmas, 23 December 2023, the former premier announced a commitment to increase protections to the rivers and flood plains in the Lake Eyre Basin. That was a decision to appease the Greens and the Left faction

within his party. We now know that it was also to prevent future oil and gas production in the expanded Channel Country strategic environmental area. The approvals and the applications that were in place at that time continued. I took great pleasure in signing off on those approvals when I came into this office. Those approvals had sat on the desk of the previous minister for years. I did that to give the gas and resources companies the certainty they need to continue their operations in that area.

We know that there is a chronic gas shortage along the eastern seaboard that it is now predicted will lead to brownouts in the upcoming summer season interstate. We want to address that gas shortage because Queensland has abundant reserves. We have been very clear about those reserves and how we can develop them because that means jobs and royalties for this state. That is production that we desperately need in Queensland. That gas will play a crucial role in the energy mix going forward for many years. It is absolutely crucial.

Already my department has held a number of meetings to discuss how we can increase gas production in Queensland. We are committed to doing that and I make no apologies for it. We are open for business. We have sent the message back to all the gas companies that if they want to do business then they should come to Queensland because we have ample reserves and we will support them. We will work collaboratively with companies to develop gas reserves because that is an economic opportunity for this state. Already today we have heard about the gaping black hole in the budget. At the moment, every stone that we turn over has a multibillion dollar trap underneath it.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b) on relevance. The question was specifically about the Channel Country and the Lake Eyre Basin and whether the minister would reverse the ban.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order with respect to the point of order raised by the Manager of Opposition Business under standing order 118(b). The minister is being relevant to the question as asked. He is providing a detailed response to the substance of the question as asked. Mr Speaker, I ask you to consider that in your ruling.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, the Lake Eyre Basin was mentioned. As a former shadow minister, I know of the complexities around the Lake Eyre Basin. Answer the question as best you can.

**Mr LAST:** I reiterate: we will be allowing existing petroleum lease applications, that were submitted but not decided, to be considered under the existing requirements. That is exactly what we have done. The area that has been identified is of significance. We recognise that. We will be making sure that we work with the gas companies going forward to abide by those regulations that were brought in by the previous government.

### Victims of Crime

**Mr DALTON:** My question is for the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. Can the minister outline how the Crisafulli government intends to ensure that victims of crime are treated with decency and respect, and is the minister aware of any contrasting views?

**Mrs GERBER:** I acknowledge the member for Mackay for asking his first question in this House and also for the decency and respect with which he treats victims of crime. I have stood shoulder to shoulder with victims of crime, alongside every other minister and the member for Mackay, to hear their stories and their advocacy in their fight for change. We on this side of the House have treated victims of crime with decency and respect. We have heard their stories, we have supported their advocacy and we have brought forward laws to bring about the change that victims of crime have called for.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, in your response be careful that you do not talk to a bill already before the House.

**Mrs GERBER:** More than that, we are supporting those laws with a comprehensive plan that includes a professional victims advocacy service for victims of crime. That service will give victims end-to-end support throughout the judicial process. Victims of all crime will be able to access that professional victims advocacy service.

The member asked for views that contrast with the way the LNP has dealt with victims of crime. I can let the member for Mackay know that the way the LNP has dealt with victims of crime is in stark contrast to the way those opposite in the Labor Party dealt with victims of crime. In their term of government, those opposite consistently talked down victims of crime. We know that the fish rots from the head so, when it comes to the way those opposite dealt with victims of crime, let us look at how the Labor leader and Leader of the Opposition, when premier, dealt with victims of crime just before the election.

In September, just before the election, when talking about victims of crime the opposition leader and then premier said that the media was addicted to CCTV footage of crime. That is the way those opposite dealt with victims of crime who went to the media to tell their stories. The media told their stories and the opposition leader said that they were addicted to CCTV footage of crime. Behind every single video or piece of CCTV footage was a real victim who was experiencing Labor's youth crime crisis. That shows how those opposite treat victims of crime.

*(Time expired)*

### Lake Eyre Basin

**Mr SMITH:** My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries. The minister said, 'If I can't reflect what industry wants, then I fail.' Will the minister commit to reflecting farmers' calls and maintain the ban on new oil and gas on the Channel Country flood plains of the Lake Eyre Basin?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you have one minute to respond.

**Mr PERRETT:** I thank the member for Bundaberg for the question. That is not directly within my portfolio; however, industry does raise that issue regularly with me. Obviously, the shadow minister knows that. It is something that I am concerned about. In this state, we need to protect good quality agricultural land for agricultural production. We need to grow the value of agricultural production in this state. We must do that to support our regions. We must do that to support the people who live in the regions. We must do that to support businesses.

I will do everything to reflect what industry wants, particularly to grow the value of agriculture and protect the vital industries that are located within the Great Artesian Basin. They are important—we know that—and it is something that I am committed to. That is something that was not raised previously by the 'real farmers' friend'; now this member is the 'real farmers' friend', apparently. We will see how that goes into the future. I just hope he does not become a friend of the fire ant.


**Mr SPEAKER:** The period for questions has expired.

## MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 10 December (see p. 326), on motion of Mrs Frecklington—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr FIELD** (Capalaba—LNP) (3.48 pm): Mr Speaker, 26 January is supposed to be a day of celebration. It is the day when we can celebrate the nation that Australia has grown to become. For my wife and me, it will forever be the day that three members of our family were taken from us by an uncontrollable, unstoppable, untouchable repeat youth offender.

Across Queensland, families have been shattered, lives irreparably changed and communities torn apart by the rampant youth crime crisis in this state. These are not just numbers rapidly increasing on a sheet; these are people—real people. These are fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, neighbours—outstanding members of their communities who should still be with us. Their absence is a stark reminder of what happens when governments fail the people they are here to represent.

My family were failed. The family of Emma Lovell were failed. The families of so many more victims have been failed. Ten years ago, the former Labor government's move to water down Queensland's youth justice laws created a generation of untouchables—weak consequences for young crims allowed them to offend, reoffend and devastate lives and livelihoods with impunity. Had that decision not been made, one can only wonder how many victims, communities and families, just like mine, would still be intact today.

The revolving door of Labor's failed youth justice system will forever be the legacy of those opposite. In the last financial year alone, there were 46,130 finalised proven offences by young crims—a 12 per cent increase on the previous year, a 51 per cent increase in the past five years and a 98 per cent increase in the last 10 years. Those opposite had let down victims, communities and even young offenders themselves.

During the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's inquiry into the Making Queensland Safer Bill, we heard accounts from Queenslanders whose lives had been devastated by youth crime. Jillian Joyce, an Australian Army veteran, shared with the committee that she felt safer

while on deployment in a conflict zone overseas than she does in her own community. Is this the Queensland that those opposite can be proud of, a state in which even our veterans do not feel safe? Jillian's sentiment echoes across the state, including in my electorate of Capalaba where locals have spent the last decade living in fear. They are tired of it and they want change.

There will be change. We took our Adult Crime, Adult Time policy to the election with a promise of legislating our Making Queensland Safer Laws before Christmas. We will deliver that promise.

I was following the debate in the chamber last night and I was astounded. I was astounded by the behaviour and the contributions of some of those opposite. I am astounded that those opposite have moved to delay the introduction of these laws. Truth be told, I am not really that surprised. Why is it now that the members on that side of the House are attempting to look proactive on the issue of youth crime?

**Mrs Frecklington:** They had 10 years.

**Mr FIELD:** Those opposite had 10 years to make change, instead they chose to sit on their hands and close their eyes to the tragedies occurring across the state—charter boat; what charter boat? Youth crime crisis; what youth crime crisis? After all, it is not just a media beat-up.

When Matt, Kate and Miles were taken from us, former premier Palaszczuk was on the scene, cameras in tow. The then premier drove past our home with then police commissioner Katarina Carroll. The media took their photos at the corner of Allenby Road and Finucane Road—the scene of the crime—and then the then premier drove past our place again on the way back to 1 William Street. Only Katarina Carroll, the former police commissioner, stopped at our home to express how sorry she was that something like this could ever happen.

If the former Labor government wanted to give the perception that they would crack down on youth crime, they had the chance for a brief time. Our family knew the reality. There was almost zero contact with the government. I do not believe the member for Murrumba even knew who I was when he fronted the Voice for Victims rally earlier this year.

Those opposite spent the last decade in office promising change but never delivering. This LNP Crisafulli government will deliver change. We will deliver justice for victims—justice for victims past, present and future. The people of Queensland knew what we were offering. They delivered us the mandate to legislate the Making Queensland Safer Laws. The passing of these laws will put in the past Labor's soft-on-crime approach and give Queenslanders the justice and protection they deserve for the future.

These laws will send a crystal clear message to young criminals committing adult crime: you will serve adult time. How can it be that a young criminal with over 130 offences on his rap sheet can receive only six years jail for taking three lives? Strike me down, last week we saw that failed youth justice system again. Another criminal who stole a car and wiped out and killed three people received a sentence where he only needs to serve 60 per cent of a six-year sentence before he is allowed to walk back out on the streets. I assure you that the lives of Michale Chandler, Kelsie Davies and Sheree Robertson are worth more than that. The lives of every Queenslanders killed by an out-of-control young crim are worth more than that.

These laws are just as much about rehabilitation and justice as they are about punishing offenders. These new laws will open up the Childrens Court to allow victims, their families and the media more transparency throughout the judicial process. This is an important change and one that Queenslanders told us was desperately needed.

One issue that I noted during the election was the number of victims who had been kept in the dark about the whereabouts of their perpetrators. Some were released back into the very same community, and their victims were not told until after the fact.


This government understands that prevention is as vital as accountability. That is why we are investing in early intervention and rehabilitation programs to turn the tide on youth crime. We have initiatives like: Staying on Track, a \$175 million program offering 12 months of post-release support to help young people rebuild their lives with stability and purpose; Circuit Breaker Sentencing, an \$80 million program providing an alternative to detention with targeted rehabilitation for up to 60 young people at a time; and community-led crime prevention, a \$100 million investment to empower local initiatives that address the root causes of crime, focusing on education, training and employment. Among others, these are real meaningful steps to break the cycle of offending and give young people the chance to choose a different path, a path that shows them the way ahead is by honest work and the determination to build a good life for themselves and their families.



The bill is also about restoring trust in our justice system in which Queenslanders have lost faith. The former government's catch-and-release program created great frustration among our police, who are working to try to keep our community safe. Recently, I paid a visit to the Capalaba police station with the Minister for Police to listen to the concerns of the police on the ground in our community. Morale is at an all-time low.

The Queensland Police Union has voiced its support for the tough provisions in this bill, including the Adult Crime, Adult Time approach. They know firsthand the devastating impact of youth crime, with over 13,000 motor vehicle thefts reported last year, despite numerous police enforcement strategies to curb the rising number of thefts. For many, the theft of their car means the loss of income. During the campaign, locals and Queenslanders from every corner of the state expressed to me how they have been impacted. I heard from teenagers who worked hard to save money from their part-time jobs to purchase their first car—it should be a time of joy—only to have it stolen months down the track.

Insurance premiums are skyrocketing, hurting the hip pockets of Queenslanders already struggling under the cost-of-living crisis. Do those opposite truly believe this or is it just about a media beat-up? My family's story is just one of many. Every life lost, every victim impacted, is a reminder of why this bill is so critical. We owe it to those who have suffered, to those we have lost and to future generations of Queenslanders to make Queensland a safer place.

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.59 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Making Queensland Safer Laws. Before I start, I want to pay tribute to the member for Capalaba on his contribution, but, more particularly, on his first speech. His commitment to come into this place to tackle an issue that has touched his family and so many others in Queensland is a testament to his strength of character. As a family man, I say thank you to the member for Capalaba. He made it very clear that he was enjoying retirement. To come in here and work for a better Queensland is a very admirable thing, and I look forward to working with the member for Capalaba over the next four years and beyond to make Queensland better.

There is not one pocket of Queensland that has not been impacted by the scourge on society that is the youth crime crisis. We spent years in opposition watching as the former government let the crisis evolve and worsen, to the point that we have had tragic instances where mothers have been stabbed in their own homes and grandmothers killed at the local shopping centre. No-one in this place wants that to happen. I accept that all members in this place think that is abhorrent, but it is decisions and actions of the former government that have exacerbated those problems, and that is undeniable.

We had to watch this horror unfold and watch the former government put their hands up in defeat and let young criminals run this state. It ends today. It ends with the election of the Crisafulli government because we are committed to tackling this problem. Queenslanders made a choice at the election. They made a choice to vote in a government that will stand up for the rights of victims and prioritise them in all of our decisions. Sadly, we have too many victims of crime in Queensland.

I still remember—and I know that the police minister knows these people as well—hearing from some long-term locals in my electorate of Buderim, Gillian and Kerry Taylor. It was the morning after a parliamentary sitting that I heard that they had been the victims of a terrifying home invasion so I dropped in to see them. They told me the story.

They were sitting having dinner and settling in for the night when there was a knock at the front door. When they opened the door, three teenagers armed with knives pushed their way into Gillian and Kerry's home. It was their safe space, as all our homes are our safe space. They waved knives in their faces as a threat and demanded their car keys. Kerry bravely fought them off while Gillian phoned the police. Fortunately, in this instance, no-one was injured. The young offenders ran off before they were quickly picked up by the police a short distance away.

It turns out that they had stolen a car from somewhere in northern Brisbane and this was by no means their first offence. They were released from police custody the very next morning. They were released, while Gillian is living with the ongoing trauma and while Kerry is battling the trauma of having his home invaded by young thugs. Gillian tells me that she thinks about that terrifying moment every time she looks at her front door. It has changed their lives forever.

These are stories we do not even hear about in the media or in this place. We rightly hear about the worst of the youth offending in Queensland, but this has impacted Queenslanders everywhere. Gillian and Kerry did not get justice; they got a lifetime of trauma. They had to call their children and grandchildren to tell them what had occurred, impacting their children's and their grandchildren's lives as well, knowing that it can happen any quiet evening in your own home.

The Making Queensland Safer Laws are for people like Kerry and Gillian as well. It is for people who have spent their lives doing the right thing only to become victims of a senseless and violent crime at the hands of lawless teenagers. Kerry and Gillian told me that they wholeheartedly support our Making Queensland Safer Laws that will restore consequences for actions. We made a commitment to people like Kerry and Gillian and all Queenslanders to bring these laws to fruition before Christmas. Here we are honouring that commitment.

On the Sunshine Coast, the community I represent and where my children attend school, there have been 2,473 offences committed by youth offenders this year alone. Let us be honest, the Sunshine Coast is not among the areas where youth offending is at its worst in Queensland. Even on the Sunshine Coast, 12 young people have been listed as serious repeat offenders this year alone. Imagine the break-ins that could have been prevented, the cars that would not have been stolen and the families who would not be living with ongoing trauma and financial hardship if Labor had not weakened laws and if serious repeat offenders had been adequately dealt with in the courts.


Adult Crime, Adult Time will bring significant change by removing constraints in the Youth Justice Act on the maximum sentencing orders for serious offences like murder, grievous bodily harm, robbery and unlawful use of a motor vehicle. We are putting the rights of honest, hardworking Queenslanders before the rights of criminals.

I no longer want to hear about a tradie waking up and finding tools have been stolen from his ute. I do not want to hear about him losing days and weeks of work. I do not want to hear about a mum being woken up in the middle of night by young thugs rummaging through her drawers while her children sleep. I no longer want to hear about a family torn apart by violence.

I throw my full support behind the Crisafulli government's Making Queensland Safer Laws because Queenslanders deserve to be safe in their homes and in their community. Yes, we are getting tough on crime. It is what Queenslanders asked of us and it is what we are delivering. What we are also delivering is a pathway for kids to leave a life of crime and create a future for themselves.

There was very clearly overwhelming support in my community, in the lead-up to the election, in relation to our government's Adult Crime, Adult Time policy position, but I was—and I acknowledge this—contacted in relation to the need for early intervention as well. We are injecting serious funding into rehabilitation and early intervention programs as well as youth justice schools in the South-East and North Queensland. Our top priority is community safety and removing the serious repeat offenders. However, we acknowledge it is also important to offer offenders a way out and even more important to reach those young people before they commit their first crime. We can and we must do both.

The LNP made a commitment to Queenslanders and we are following through on that here today without delay. Queenslanders deserve to feel safe this Christmas and every single day. I know that these laws will do just that, which is why I strongly urge all members of this House to support these laws unequivocally.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (4.07 pm): I rise today to express deep concern about the Queensland government's Making Queensland Safer Bill. I ask the question: will it really make us safer? I do not think there is one person in this chamber who does not want to keep Queenslanders safe in their home and in their workplace or see a reduction in car thefts, home break-ins, juvenile crime or any crime. That is abundantly clear to everybody who serves in this chamber. This legislation was introduced with the promise of enhancing community safety, but I believe it will not do that, and many like myself believe that the proposed legislation is deeply flawed.

I am acutely aware, like many, of the challenges we face across this state. I see it all too frequently in my electorate of Cairns. Rightly so, people are frustrated and angry. Some of those people are my family and my good friends—too many people around the state. We all acknowledge that more needs to be done. Ignoring the well-researched evidence of experts from around the world I believe is not the right thing to do. It not only disregards fundamental human rights principles but also ignores overwhelming evidence showing that punitive approaches towards youth crime are ineffective and actually harmful. I believe that this bill will fail to achieve its stated goals and in fact will exacerbate the very issues it claims to address.

At the core of this bill is the decision by the Crisafulli government to treat children as adults, imposing life sentences and harsher penalties on offenders as young as 10. I note that the federal LNP have worked with the Albanese government to acknowledge that 16-year-olds do not understand social media. They are taking that power off them. What a contrast we are seeing here.

This approach tears up well-established sentencing principles designed specifically for children. Research consistently shows that treating children punitively rather than focusing on rehabilitation results in higher reoffending rates. Detention, especially for young offenders, is not a deterrent: it is a breeding ground for future crime. These are the facts and they remain undisputed. Studies indicate reoffending rates between 70 per cent and 90 per cent among children who have experienced detention. Children are not miniature adults. Their cognitive development, emotional regulation and decision-making abilities are still maturing. Children must be treated in a manner that promotes their dignity and worth. I am not saying that children should not be incarcerated, but I am talking about the specific piece of legislation that has been presented here. This bill disregards that fundamental principle. Instead, it punishes vulnerable children further into a cycle of crime and disadvantage.

The impacts of this legislation will disproportionately affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, exacerbating existing inequalities. Indigenous children are already overrepresented in Queensland's youth detention system. Locking more children up, especially those from marginalised backgrounds, perpetrates a cycle of poverty, trauma and criminality. Instead of addressing the root causes of youth crime such as lack of education, mental health services and stable housing, this bill doubles down on punishment. This is not justice; this is systematic discrimination.

Locking up children is not only ineffective but, for those who are concerned about the economics, it is not responsible. Detaining a child is significantly more expensive than investing in community-based diversion programs. These programs have a proven track record of reducing reoffending and promoting rehabilitation, which is what the people of Queensland want. They want to see the numbers going down and they want to see it done in a sustainable way. What you are proposing is going to see them come out later, older and more affected.

In contrast, the costs associated with detention extend far beyond the immediate expenses. There are long-term social costs, including increased crime rates, higher demand for mental health services and young people emerging from detention ill-equipped to conduct a productive life. The revolving door of incarceration this bill proposes will only strain an already overwhelmed system and burden taxpayers without improving community service. If you ask police whether lockups are full and police are stressed now, wait and see what it looks like in several months.


The government itself has acknowledged the proposed amendments will lead to sentences that are 'more punitive than necessary to achieve community safety'. This is your document. This is an admission that the legislation is not about what works but rather about political optics. This tough on crime stance has been debunked by decades of research. The evidence is clear: punitive measures do not deter crime. We would like to think it does, but it does not. What works is prevention, early intervention, diversion and rehabilitation. By focusing on these strategies we can address the underlying factors driving youth crime. Many children in the youth justice system suffer from undiagnosed mental health conditions, cognitive impairments and histories of trauma. Ignoring these conditions only compounds issues and increases the likelihood of reoffending. This bill does not address any of those points at all.

Beyond the statistical and economic arguments, we remember that many of these children have faced unimaginable hardships. I know that when you have suffered as a result of these children's actions it is hard to take these things into account, but these are still the facts. Exposure to domestic violence, substance abuse and poverty are the common threads that appear throughout these children's upbringings. These adverse childhood experiences alter brain develop, impacting behaviour and decision-making. Punishing children for the consequences of trauma they did not chose is not justice; it is cruelty.

Will this bill really make us safer? This legislation also risks creating a generation of young people who are going to be more damaged, more marginalised, more likely to reoffend and more dangerous. It ignores the potential for rehabilitation and, more importantly, reintegration, instead consigning a generation of youth to lifelong institutional trauma. We need a smarter, evidence-based approach to youth crime that prioritises prevention, rehabilitation and community support. Programs that address the root causes of offending behaviour such as mental health support, educational initiatives and family services are far more effective at reducing crime and creating safer communities. We have seen this work in other jurisdictions. Queensland has the opportunity to lead with compassion and intelligence rather than fear and retribution.

This government has failed to show courage and leadership and an ability to acknowledge the facts with its proposed Making Queensland Safer Bill. I am not for one minute saying that you do not have the people of Queensland behind you. You hold the numbers; this bill will go through. I am talking

about the content of the bill and what is not in this bill. Instead of addressing the root causes of youth crime such as trauma, poverty and the lack of access to mental health services, this government has opted for punitive measures that have been proven to be ineffectual and harmful. In the long term they will not serve what we are all looking for or the people whom we represent. Ignoring overwhelming evidence, the government's approach will exacerbate reoffending, disproportionately target marginalised communities and burden taxpayers with another failed system. True leadership would prioritise prevention, rehabilitation and community support over political posturing. Queensland deserves better. Our children deserve smarter, evidence-based solutions. I think we should all be working towards better outcomes.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (4.16 pm): I am proud to rise in this House as part of a fresh, united LNP team that has the right plan for Queensland. The Making Queensland Safer Bill is a key commitment our government brought to the election. As promised, these laws—which put the rights of victims ahead of the rights of offenders—will be passed by Christmas. The aim of this landmark bill is to restore community safety in Queensland and turn the tide on the youth crime crisis. I am proud to be part of a government that listens to Queenslanders' concerns, acts accordingly and cracks down on serious repeat youth offenders.

After a decade of living with Labor's failures and a generation of untouchables created under Labor's watch, Queenslanders have had enough and voted for change. I note the member for Cairns could not seem to say he would fully support this legislation. His speech very much suggested he was opposed to the whole lot. He suggested we should seek community support and listen to the community before we bring laws into this place. Maybe the member for Cairns missed it, but this was a key election commitment that we spoke about for a very long time. We brought it to the election, and the people of Queensland very much offered their support for these strong laws. Maybe the member for Cairns missed that memo.

The people of Callide and Central Queensland, the Wide Bay-Burnett and the Western Downs have all also said enough is enough and supported the LNP with strong crime policies that are focused on the rights of victims. I appreciate the many people across Callide who have come to me since I became their local member and shared their frustrations and concerns under Labor's crime crisis. During the campaign, Labor tried to criticise our Adult Crime, Adult Time policy for apparently not having enough detail. Now they criticise us by saying that 52 pages is too much legislation, so what is it? I do not know what the opposition are really going on about. They say one thing one day and another thing the next. Labor are divided. They do not know where to turn. They have one faction that cannot fathom the idea of personal responsibility and another faction that thinks crime is a media beat-up. They are grasping at straws, trying to find a way through seemingly with blindfolds on. Maybe that is why we are hearing so many conflicting speeches from the opposition.

What did Labor try to do to deal with their division? Yesterday they tried to move amendments to force the LNP to break our promise, which was to ensure these changes are law by Christmas. That is right: this is an opposition that is trying to pick stories out of thin air, criticising us for breaking promises at the same time as trying to get the LNP to break election promises.

This bill includes amendments to the Youth Justice Act 1992 and introduces our Adult Crime, Adult Time policy across 13 offence categories including murder, manslaughter, unlawful striking causing death, grievous bodily harm, acts intended to cause grievous bodily harm, wounding, serious assault, home and business break-ins, robbery, burglary, dangerous operation of a vehicle and unlawful entry or possession of a vehicle for committing an indictable offence. These are not child crimes. These crimes are incredibly serious in nature. Many Queenslanders know all too well how it feels to be a victim of crime. We have far too many victims of crime here in Queensland.

Labor members have been trying to say that we have not listened to those on the front line, experts, victim groups and Queenslanders. How wrong they are. We have six former frontline police officers, a former prosecutor, small business owners and victims of crime representing the LNP in this parliament. I commend the member for Capalaba for standing up for what is right and delivering one of the hardest and most moving maiden speeches this chamber has likely ever heard. I certainly hope no other member has to deliver a speech like that. The further comments he just made on this bill show that he is a real voice for victims. With his voice in this chamber, Queenslanders know that their future will be brighter under a Crisafulli LNP government.

Our former police officers have spoken and will continue to speak to this legislation, and they have worked hard, in conjunction with our ministers, to develop this legislation. Our government is serious about listening to Queenslanders and our frontline staff. The Queensland Police Union's submission to the committee on this bill noted—

The QPU commends the Government on having the courage of its convictions to elevate the human rights of the victims of crime above those who cause the most harm in our community. For too long under Queensland's human rights legislation the rights of victims have yielded to the rights of offenders.

Many members in this parliament know this all too well from their experiences in listening to their constituents. Too many people in the electorate of Callide know all too well how it feels to have the rights of victims behind the rights of offenders. It seems that Labor cannot accept that we should be putting the rights of victims ahead of the rights of offenders.

Removing the principle of detention as a last resort was another key election commitment, and today we deliver on that commitment. Let us not forget Labor's bungled and desperate attempt to suggest that they did this only months ago. They walked in here with cameras rolling and said that they were removing this principle; however, there was one key detail. What did it say in the explanatory notes for that change? That is right: that this amendment was not intended to change the law. They said they were changing the law, but the explanatory notes for that so-called change explicitly said that it was not intended to change the law.


Our legislation amends the Youth Justice Act to remove detention as a last resort and remove the principle that a non-custodial order is better than detention. That is right: we are getting rid of it. We are not being tricky with words; we are removing it. Evidently, Labor's laws have added to the youth crime crisis that Queenslanders had to endure under the previous government. This bill is evidence that the LNP have listened to Queenslanders, and by removing these principles we can begin to restore community safety in Queensland.

A birthday should not mean that a criminal rap sheet as long as a cricket pitch gets torn up. This bill amends section 148 of the Youth Justice Act to provide details of a person's child criminal history—including police cautions, restorative justice agreements and contraventions of a supervised release order—so they are visible to the court when sentencing an adult or child for an offence. The court, of course, can determine what weight to give this information. This then carries for five years, better equipping courts to appropriately sentence the worst of the worst offenders. To enhance transparency, these amendments will also include allowing media to cover proceedings in the Childrens Court and allowing the victims, their family or representatives to be present during court proceedings.

We are also strengthening policy to assist with the transferring of 18-year-olds from youth detention centres or watch houses to adult correctional centres. The new requirement will be that an individual must be transferred within one month of turning 18. The Queensland Police Union stated in their submission that they support the policy outlined in the bill for transferring these offenders to adult custody and for the process to be automatic and efficient.

A new principle will be added to the charter of youth justice to recognise the impact of offending on the victim. The elevation of this principle will mean the court must have primary regard for this when considering sentencing of a youth offender. Too many times we have heard that victims and their families are left traumatised and scared in their own homes. These tough amendments complement the LNP's plan to establish our gold standard early intervention programs, as we committed to.

As we have heard, the Crisafulli government is also making significant investment in these early intervention programs and initiatives in an endeavour to turn the tide on youth crime. We know it is a complex problem, and that is why we brought an incredibly complex plan to the election. We will continue to work harder for Queenslanders to reduce the number of victims in this state. These changes are such a priority that we included them in our 100-day plan and now we are delivering them for Queensland in the first couple of months. This bill is the first step towards turning the crime crisis around and making Queensland a safe place to live again. The LNP will always be tough on crime. Queenslanders deserve it. Victims deserve it. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (4.25 pm): I rise to give my contribution on the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024. A lot has changed in 200 years in this country. Two hundred years ago, stealing a mode of transport, such as another man's horse, would have got you hung in the street. Fast-forward 200 years and, as it currently stands, if a youth offender in the state steals someone's mode of transport—their way of getting to work, getting their family to school or getting an elderly family member to a doctor's appointment—and is cooperative, they will be let go. In 200 years we have gone from hanging a person for stealing a mode of transport to now saying to them, 'You know what? Don't do that again.' That is not acceptable.

This is not a problem that has arisen in just the last five minutes. In 2017, when I ran for the seat of Hinchinbrook, it was a problem. The KAP campaigned on our relocation sentencing policy all the way back then. Since then, we have put a number of policies forward to the Queensland public and they have gained support. In 2019, we started talking publicly about removing detention as a last resort and we were raising that issue at rallies. In 2020, we brought that policy to the state election. In 2021, the member for Traeger introduced an amendment into this House to remove detention as a last resort. It pained me to see both sides of the House vote against that amendment. I could not understand it, especially when we later saw the LNP bring that up as one of their star policies, just after removing breach of bail as an offence was passed in this House, which was the LNP's gold-star policy of youth crime before that.

In 2022, we started speaking publicly and in this House around 'adult crime, adult time'. It was on 4 July 2023 that we put our policy to the public and we listed the prescribed crimes that have now been picked up by the LNP as their policy moving forward. They make up the crux of the legislation we are debating here today. I want to remind those new members who think the LNP have all the answers that they should be thanking the KAP for actually putting these in the public sphere and road-testing them. That probably gave LNP members at one of their conferences the gumption and the backbone to back harder legislation in Queensland.

I will ask, though—this is more a question to the House—why attempted murder has been left out of the Adult Crime, Adult Time policy. Why has the offence of accessory after the fact of murder been left out? Killing an unborn child has been left out as well. One that grinds my gears and irks me to the core is leaving rape out. That is an adult crime. People who rape scar their victims for a lifetime. Those people, whether they are above the age of 18 or younger, should be held accountable because that is an adult crime.

This legislation also looks to do a number of other things, including to remove the principle of detention as a last resort, as I just spoke about, and promote the consideration of the impacts of the offending on victims through the Charter of Youth Justice Principles when sentencing a child. I see that as a good thing. It is great that the legislation will ensure that a child's criminal history reflects their full criminal history.

I had an opportunity, only a few months ago, to sit with a victim of crime from Townsville, Karl Boevink. He went through the sentencing process for the youth offender who ran over him in a motor vehicle while he rode his motorcycle, leaving him unable to continue his role with the ADF and having to be medically discharged. Mr Boevink will not work in the line of work he had always dreamt of. The experience has shattered and turned his life in a completely different direction. Sitting there in the courtroom, being invited into the courtroom to hear the young person being sentenced and hearing that that person would be released back into residential care that afternoon after only serving a few months of incarceration at the Cleveland Bay Detention Centre was gut-wrenching. Shame!

The opt-out mechanism for victims of crime in regard to information on the register—that is a good thing. I have also been a victim of crime, and I know the QPS is very busy with the current crisis, but I can say that, if victims had feedback of what the QPS was up to, they would understand that they are busy but also understand what is going on through the judicial process.

Through my last seven years in parliament, I have worked with not only a number of victims but also business owners who have had to deal with issues due to the youth crime crisis in Townsville, none more so than those who have had dealings with the Street University in Thuringowa. Those who were once in government here pushed this as one of their solutions to youth crime. The previous member for Thuringowa would stand there and say it was his flagship way of turning around youth crime. Over 50 businesses lobbied our office after not being able to get any response from the previous member. Last night in this House, the current member for Thuringowa asked whether or not the KAP would be supporting this bill. We have been supporting victims of crime for as long as we have been in this House. I would like to educate that member and say that, if you are going to stand up and have a crack at someone, maybe make sure it is after they have already spoken because I am going to have a crack at you.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Direct your comments through the chair, thanks, member.


**Mr DAMETTO:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your guidance. Time is ticking. Those business owners are looking for help. They are saying that the Street University needs to be shut down right now. Stop the drug use at the back of Street University. Stop the break-ins afterwards. Females are too scared to walk to their cars after work because they fear being attacked or subjected to the predatory behaviour going on around Street University. It has to stop. I call on the member for Thuringowa to please listen to those victims.

While I am on my feet, I will also raise the issue of where we are going to store or put these youth offenders. There are a lot of people right now hanging on this Christmas present from the LNP. They are hanging on the fact that crime will get better over Christmas. I hope to God, I swear to God, I pray to God that it does. I hope it does. However, unless you have an incarceration method that deters youth offenders from offending in the first place, it will not work.

The member for Hill has spoken a number of times in this House—and he has been in this House for over 20 years—saying time and time again he sees young offenders at this time of year trying to get into detention for Christmas, trying to get away from their families who are abusing them, trying to get away from the fact that they are not going to get a Christmas present outside. The state government needs to put their shoulder to the wheel and find a better way of incarceration that deters people and, I must say, a cheaper way. Incarceration in this state right now costs taxpayers between \$800 and \$1,500 a day, depending on where that child is being incarcerated.

Relocation sentencing is another policy that I saw the state government raise during the election campaign. It was a reiteration of our sentencing policy. I did see the now youth justice minister put some commentary out in the media saying, 'It is not relocation sentencing. It is not the Katter's relocation sentencing policy.' If you have a look at how the media release is written, it is almost like they grabbed the whole 16-page policy document, Chat GPT-ed it and released it. Once again, acknowledge where the hard work is happening; acknowledge those who have been doing the work with the community and listening. We do not sit here and say we have written these policies on our own; we have listened to regional Queensland and we have listened to the victims. Once again, have a think about incarceration.

I know the type of children who are right now on drugs, running around in Townsville in stolen cars, breaking into people's houses, running around with machetes, causing all sorts of grief and havoc out there. They could not care less about going out to Cleveland Bay for Christmas, but what they would be pretty deterred by is going 1,000 kilometres away from the major city, sitting out in the bush, in 40-degree heat, in donga-style accommodation with a kilo of flies a week if you want to eat them. That is the kind of incarceration method we need to start looking at—something tough. There will be some people out there who would love to see people hung in the street for stealing a car and other people out there who want to hug these children into oblivion, but we are all out of hugs. Queenslanders expect the LNP government to get this right, and I do not believe this legislation goes far enough, even though we will support it this round.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (4.36 pm): Adult Crime, Adult Time—a so-called slogan that we have turned into legislation here in this House. I have to say thank you for that slogan because that little slogan has put the LNP on this side of the House in government for the next four years. For 10 years—10 years—the Labor Party ignored the fact that crime was a serious issue out there, particularly in regional areas and, I must say, particularly in the area of Townsville. For a long, long time, the three Labor members who held seats in Townsville denied there was an issue. They might have said something up in Townsville, but they just denied it every which way when they came into this House. The legislation that they brought in to weaken the laws was the genesis of a lot of this youth crime because between 2012 and 2015, there were isolated incidents, not the crisis that put us into government in the election that we have just had. Instead of those three deniers, we now have three great LNP members in Townsville. I thank them all for their commitments.

One other area of particular note for me was the seat held by another youth crime denier, the former member for Capalaba, who basically said it was a media beat-up. It is just wonderful that we now have a good member in here from the LNP who knew it was not a media beat-up as he actually suffered from youth crime. It is just wonderful to have that member here in this House. His election is proof that youth crime is a major issue in this state which the former Labor government totally ignored. Not only did they ignore it; they started it from 2015 when the leftie, woke side of the Labor Party decided that they had to water down the laws and allow these kids to run out and commit crimes without any consequence. That is why crime grew and grew.

I can remember that a number of years ago when I spoke to senior police they said that there were about 400 of these recidivist young criminals statewide. Now they tell me there are around 1,000 recidivist criminals statewide. They also tell me that 80 per cent of them can be rehabilitated to be good citizens but that there will always be 20 per cent who will remain bad to the bone for the rest of their careers. They are the ones we have to sentence using Adult Crime, Adult Time to make sure they do not repeat their offences in our communities and make our communities scared.

The Mermaid Beach electorate has suffered from kids who are repeatedly running amok and who are in a revolving door through the Magistrates Court because the laws were weakened by the then Labor government. That will be fixed in parliament this week, before Christmas. We will not procrastinate, like opposition members are trying to do with their amendments seeking to stall the legislation to try to repair the damage they did to themselves through the youth crime crisis. This law will be through parliament before Christmas. It will be followed by other remediating measures as we go on to make sure the youth crime crisis is addressed properly over the longer term—that means treating kids with gold standard early intervention and re-education so that they can become good citizens of our community and not frighten communities right across Queensland.

**Mr McDonald:** Taxpayers, not lawbreakers.

**Mr STEVENS:** Exactly; correct. We will turn them into good citizens and that will help them in their lives. A lot of them do come from dysfunctional homes—we understand those sorts of matters—but then get into peer groups that take them out and teach them a bit of ‘fun’ for the night in terms of breaking into houses, stealing keys, stealing cars and driving recklessly. At the moment under the Labor laws, a lot of the older ones are fairly smart and send the young kids in as they know that the young kids cannot be incarcerated. They grab the car keys and out they go for their joy rides. Personal friends have had their cars stolen, and it is just devastating for them. They cannot understand why the government of Queensland cannot address this problem.

As we have heard from former police officers who are now members on this side of the House, it is frustrating for the police as well. There is a revolving door for these kids whom they spend a lot of resources catching. There are chases on the highway—all sorts of terrifying incidents that are correctly reported by the media. If they did not report on them there would be silence, which the Labor Party would be happy about. The moral standing of the police has been absolutely damaged by the repetitiveness of youth crime and it is why officers are leaving the service in droves. Most of them are LNP members here in the parliament—only kidding! The reality is: this is a serious issue for the police. The bill we are passing this week will go a long way in supporting them and the jobs they do. It will make sure that the kids they catch stay out of communities for an appropriate time for the crimes they commit.

In Mermaid Beach, there was one street in particular where vandalism and cars being stolen had not stopped, so the whole street put in cameras and got the council to put in cameras as well. This all had a major cost. We have spoken about the cost of insurance and other matters that are adding to the cost of living for people right throughout the community. The people of Mermaid Beach absolutely appreciate this law going through and support it 100 per cent.

I met with two parents who had respected professional careers who said, ‘We have to have our third child locked up and kept out of society. He will either kill himself—he was about 13 at the time—‘or kill some other people.’ They begged me, as their local member, to try to have this kid put away, out of society. That is a very sad indictment. These people had two great kids, and the third one got into the wrong group and behaved incredibly badly. They could not manage him. That is the sort of problem that we will have to address as a government, and we will in a very short time.


It was mentioned in one of the speeches from the Labor Party that in our period in government from 2012 to 2015 we did not do much for the bikies. As a member who had the bikies hit town and surround a police station, I can assure that member that our VLAD laws—brought in by the then attorney-general—made all those bikies leave town. Since Labor came back to government, guess what? They are all back. They are not wearing their colours—they are all wearing Versace—but they are distributing drugs on the Gold Coast. That is due, again, to soft-on-crime Labor. That should be their slogan because it is absolutely correct. They should be supporting this bill, rather than being negative about the whole thing. They should own up to their mistakes of the last 10 years. They should own up to why they are now on the opposition benches. The view from over here is a lot better. I am really enjoying seeing the member for Logan on that side of the House after a number of years. I think he has been in the parliament for 10 years. All of those members over there were party to the cover-up—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Order, members! Stop quarrelling across the chamber.

**Mr STEVENS:** Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, for your protection. All of those members over there were in denial and covering up—‘There is no crime issue here’—yet communities were all telling us a different story. Even in lovely Mermaid Beach, we had a serious crime problem. I hate to think what the poor members from Townsville had to put up with. Now they are here to fix up the problem. I thank the members from Townsville. Enjoy your time in parliament. We will see this bill pass.



 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (4.46 pm): It is a pleasure to rise to speak on the Making Queensland Safer Bill. It is landmark legislation for this Queensland government. We promised a fresh start for Queensland and Queenslanders supported us. At the outset, I would like to pay tribute to the member for Capalaba on his heartfelt maiden speech yesterday and his speech today. I acknowledge the reason he is here. Please accept my sympathies and thoughts on the tragedies you have faced and the events that brought you to this House.

This bill is a wonderful start and a change for Queensland. As a former police officer, I want to pay tribute to my other police officer friends on the LNP side of the House: the member for Ninderry, our police minister; the member for Burdekin, Dale Last; the member for Mackay; the member for Mundingburra, Janelle Poole; and, of course, the member for Nicklin, Marty Hunt. Together, we have a combined length of service of 168 years—or 170 years if you add in our time at the academy. That gives us not only longevity but also an understanding of the system, a respect for the system and a respect for victims.

I understand people opposite talking about the criminalisation of young offenders when they go to detention, but I want this House to understand that we are fixing the system. We are talking about Adult Crime, Adult Time, but there are many gold standard early interventions. I will come to the package we have announced shortly. I want those who talk about the criminalisation of young offenders to think about the system of youth crime. The police, who in our community do a wonderful job, deal with about 148,000 kids every year. Of those 148,000 kids, they fix 91 per cent. Ninety-one per cent of those youths never offend again. To say that these strong laws apply to the whole of the youth criminal cohort is just not correct. We have the police doing a great job and 91 per cent being fixed. Only nine per cent continue to offend. That nine per cent represents about 12½ thousand kids. Some of them stop offending on the second or third occasion and we end up with a hardcore group of about 4½ thousand kids who are well engrained in the youth justice system. Then we end up with about 1,500 facing proper detention. Of that 1,500, there are about 600 who are so clinically bad that they need to be taken out of circulation for their own protection and for the protection of our communities.

When those opposite come in here and talk about the criminalisation of the youth offender cohort, we are talking about the worst of the worst offenders who are in youth detention, and that is why there is a very high level of recidivism with those offenders. Those opposite when in government actually gave that youth offender cohort 72 hours of support with Youth Justice when they left incarceration. If they happened to leave on a Friday afternoon, those offenders were lucky to see somebody on Friday afternoon or maybe even on Monday morning; that was the level of support. This government has already announced a 12-month program of social and emotional support for those youth offenders. Honourable members should remember these are the worst of the worst and they are a smaller cohort across the state. It is a very important point.

Those opposite talk about Adult Crime, Adult Time being no solution. No, it is not the silver bullet. The silver buckshot is about 12 other things that we have announced that we are looking forward to putting in place in the coming months that will help victims in Queensland and help that youth offender cohort. Those opposite also talk about the lack of offences; they were hiding behind made-up metrics. When the Queensland Police Service were telling us that in 2023-24 we had the highest level of crime, the highest level of serious crime and the highest rate of offending, I listened to them. When those opposite were making up metrics around unique offenders with a proven offence, we were dealing with a very small cohort who were ending up in court with a proven offence. We have to look at the whole system to understand how effective it is. That is why I pay tribute to the hardworking police out there—all of our frontline general duties police, the Child Protection and Investigation Units and the CIBs who are on the front line dealing with these offenders. As I said—and I will repeat—91 per cent of those kids dealt with by police never offend again and that is a tremendous record.

Those opposite did not want to listen to victims. Again, I pay tribute to the member for Capalaba and the Voice for Victims, who really led the charge here in South-East Queensland with Ben Cannon, Trudy Reading, George Atkinson and the rest of the team who did a wonderful job to set the agenda. I was proud to be on the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee along with the member for Ninderry and the member for Currumbin from our side. It was meant to be a bipartisan committee. We actually did some great work with a bipartisan approach. We ended up with a 140-page report and 64 recommendations, a lot of which formed the basis of this bill. However, because it was a bipartisan committee there were a number of things we wanted to see in place, like removing detention as a last resort, that we unfortunately could not get through that committee. I dare say the former member for Thuringowa and the former member for Hervey Bay might be rethinking their approach to that at this stage.

I want to pay tribute to my local police—the officers in Gatton, both the general staff and the CIB; the CPIU and generals in Laidley; as well as the police in Helidon and Lowood—for the wonderful job they do. I am fighting to see additional resources for those police to enable them to deal with offending. People might think that the Lockyer community is untouched by serious crime. Unfortunately, in the last few months there have been serious offences on the highway and also in Gatton, which is just not acceptable. However, it highlights that any community can be touched by this.

There is no silver bullet, as I said, and the wonderful work that police do is absolutely amazing. I can tell honourable members the last statistic that this House needs to understand—and we heard some wonderful evidence from some young people through that youth justice committee. Those young people had turned their life around. When we spoke to them, they outlined how they thought the youth justice system was a joke. They feared youth detention the first time—but only the first time because when they went in there it was just like a secure school. They were fed well, they were looked after, they even had games and things to do there. It was probably the best standard of life they have ever had. However, 80 per cent of serious property offenders stop offending when they turn 18 because of the consequences of jail—real jail. Those opposite talk about these offenders needing to be wrapped in cotton wool, but I say that is not the case. They know the system, they understand the system and 80 per cent of them will stop offending because they know the difference between right and wrong.

These changes that we are making under the Making Queensland Safer Laws are important. I have mentioned some really important points in the bill, particularly around changes to sentencing in courts, making sure the full criminal history is available and making sure that media and victims have access to the courts. There is also the \$175 million Staying on Track program and gold standard early intervention. For those who want to know what the gold standard is, I say that, as the academics tell us, it is measured—not just done and hope for the best—it is looked at and measured to determine its efficacy. That is the meaning of the term ‘gold standard’ and I am proud to be a part of a government that is delivering on that commitment. There are also accommodation options, \$150 million for nine Regional Reset programs and \$40 million for two youth justice schools.

This is a comprehensive package. It is landmark legislation that Queenslanders voted for in October. I am proud to be part of a David Crisafulli government that is delivering that fresh start that will see victim numbers decrease in Queensland and see the police get the resources and the laws they need.



**Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (4.56 pm): I rise to speak to the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024. The bill, when enacted, will dispense with the principle of detention as a last resort for children and give the same minimum, mandatory and maximum sentences that currently apply to adult offenders. At this stage of my contribution I want to acknowledge that the LNP took this policy to the Queensland public during the recent election.

The German word *verschlimmbesserung* sums up what this legislation will do. The meaning of that word is an intended improvement that makes things worse. While there is no doubt that the commission of serious crimes by anyone of any age is serious, it needs to be met with appropriate penalties. The proposed legislation does not provide a proper moral basis for a penalty. The bill goes too far.

The situation in Queensland is not exceptional; it is undoubtedly not so phenomenal as to make it desirable to act outside the Human Rights Act's protective mechanisms. The situation in Queensland is the same as it is in every other state in Australia. It is not principled or intellectually refined to take the government's proposed measures which place Queensland squarely outside international best practice. As a lawyer with over 30 years experience working in the criminal justice system, I believe that any reform to criminal law should be evidence based. I am concerned that we are in a position where we are acting against the weight of evidence and not listening to the experts in the field. I am worried that if we let this removal of human rights go through this time, how easy will it be for others to use the same exceptional claim?

While contributing to the debate, I will try to summarise what I believe I heard from stakeholders involved in the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024. I have expanded on some of the aspects of what stakeholders told the hearing and the written submissions we received. It was sad that the hearing was cut short and we did not hear from the Victims' Commissioner, whose role it is to anticipate the needs of victims. However, it was not important enough to contribute to the bill. The government pays lip-service to putting victims first.

We heard from victims in both Brisbane and Townsville, including individuals and families affected by crime, who, in summary, were looking for better support and justice. Seeking justice is quite complicated and seeking justice in the current climate may not be achievable. However, I am sure the

Victims' Commissioner would have been able to provide valuable insight into how to meet the expectations, but an invitation was not extended to the commission. Legal and social services organisations were concerned about the lack of evidence supporting the changes the bill seeks to achieve. Both these organisations were concerned about the negative consequences, which I will expand on in more detail later in the debate on this bill. Stakeholders expressed various concerns and interests about how the bill will be implemented, the effectiveness these changes will bring and the unforeseen consequences outlined by stakeholders at the coalface when dealing with youth and supporting services in this space. The Australian Human Rights Commission in its submission to the committee on this bill said—

... article 40 of the CRC—

the Convention on the Rights of the Child—

... requires Australia to ensure its criminal justice responses for children are age-appropriate, proportionate, and rehabilitative.

The principle of proportionality means that mandatory sentences of any kind, and particularly of detention, contravene the CRC. They also have a disproportionate impact on First Nations peoples.

Imprisoning children for disproportionate periods has never been shown to make communities safer or reduce crime rates. What it does do is disadvantage the marginalised, including First Nations people, disproportionately.

Let me first speak about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Attorney-General has said that the provisions in the bill are incompatible with human rights and, therefore, in this 'exceptional case' the Human Rights Act is overridden. I want to let everyone know how many rights the government thinks it is okay to ignore: the child's right to the protection that they need because they are a child and that is in their best interests; the child's right not to have their home or family unlawfully or arbitrarily interfered with; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's right to enjoy and maintain their identity, cultural heritage, kinship ties and land connection; the child's right to be treated with humanity and respect for human dignity when detained; the child's right to rehabilitation; the child's right to a speedy trial; and the child's right to be treated in a way that is appropriate to their age. Professor Tamara Walsh from the University of Queensland in her submission said—

Protecting children's rights is not inconsistent with the goal of community safety, nor does it mean that children should not be held accountable for their actions. We must ask why children offend in the first place, and recognise that children who commit offences have high and complex needs. If we want them to stop offending, we need to meet their basic needs and address the underlying causes of their offending behaviour.

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

**Mr RUSSO:** I am also concerned that the maximum penalties and the imposition of mandatory periods of imprisonment will lead to more youth offenders being less likely to plead guilty.

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

**Mr RUSSO:** They may instead take their chance to have a jury acquit them.

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

**Mr RUSSO:** This then will have a flow-on effect of increasing the number of trials as opposed to sentencing, which will also delay the victims and their families getting an outcome and closure.

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

**Mr RUSSO:** When you made your contribution I did not interrupt you—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Pause the clock. Member for—

**Mr RUSSO:**—so show the respect that you should in this House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Toohey—

**Mrs Gerber:** Jesus!

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You will stand up and withdraw that.

**Mrs GERBER:** I withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I understand that there is a lot of passion in the debate. Member for Toohey, I would ask that you keep directing your comments through the chair. Member for Nicklin, there will be no more interjections from you or you will be warned.

**Mr RUSSO:** Sentencing will also—

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr Hunt** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Nicklin, I just brought it to your attention that you would be warned. You did not give it any more than five seconds, so you are warned, but you can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Nicklin withdrew from the chamber at 5.04 pm.*

**Mr RUSSO:** The current law already provides for severe penalties for juvenile offenders. For example, a child who commits an offence of murder can be sentenced to a detention order for up to 10 years or life detention if the offence is considered particularly heinous. If sentenced to life detention, the child is not eligible for release for 20 years. This means that, under the current law, a 10-year-old who commits certain types of murder will not be eligible for parole until they are at least 30 years of age.

I do not believe this bill reflects an understanding of the juvenile justice system, the causes of juvenile offending or the evidence concerning the impact of incarcerating young offenders. This bill does not correctly consider factors leading to youth offending—for example, exposure to domestic violence and poor access to health, education and housing—and nor does it consider the high number of youth offenders who have high levels of physical, cognitive and neurological disabilities or those who have ADHD, autism spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injuries, learning difficulties and mental health issues.

Programs that aim to prevent young people from entering the youth justice system or to divert them from a path of crime are essential for the protection of the community and for the rehabilitation of young people. The government has talked about gold standard early intervention, but on my view of this they are empty words and we are yet to hear details on how this will work and what it will be. It is not only my view but also the view of many people who made submissions that the punishments imposed under this bill will not work.

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (5.06 pm): Today I rise to support the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024. This bill is a promise made to Queenslanders and it is a promise kept. It reflects our commitment to ensuring that every Queenslander feels safe where they live, where they work and where they go to enjoy everything our state has to offer. This addresses the failings of the former government—failings which saw communities across our state struggling with a surge in youth crime—by finally delivering laws to put the rights of victims and their families first.

For too long, Queenslanders have felt unsafe in their communities. In my own part of the Gold Coast I have spoken with parents worried about their children's safety, with small business owners devastated by vandalism and theft and with elderly residents who no longer feel secure in their own homes. Safety where you live is a fundamental right. Every Queenslander deserves this when they are walking down their street, opening up their shop or relaxing in their home. This bill prioritises community safety through decisive reforms, ensuring serious youth offenders finally face consequences. By imposing penalties to fit the crime, increasing rehabilitation programs and emphasising the rights of victims, we are taking action to restore faith in our justice system.

One story stands as a tragic reminder of why these reforms are so urgently needed, and it is a story that I have told in this House before. Five years ago this Friday, on 13 December 2019, 17-year-old Jack Beasley was murdered. He was senselessly stabbed to death in the middle of Surfers Paradise. Jack's life, full of potential and promise, was cruelly cut short in an unprovoked attack by a group of teenagers who had no regard for him or anyone else in their path of destruction. This senseless crime shattered not just Jack's family but our entire community. His parents, Brett and Belinda, have shown immense courage in transforming their grief into a tireless mission to ensure that no other family endures the heartbreak that they have.

I acknowledge that this week Jack's Law went live in New South Wales. A couple of weeks ago we had the announcement of similar legislation in Tasmania and we have seen similar laws in WA. We are getting Jack's Law across the nation. I want to acknowledge my new colleague, the member for Capalaba, for his powerful first speech and his contribution to this debate. The member reminds me greatly of Brett Beasley. They are two ordinary blokes who went through something unimaginable. It is great to have him in this House fighting for other victims. We are so proud to have him on this side of the chamber.

Under the laws of the previous government, offenders like those in Jack's case faced penalties that many in our community found inadequate. It was frankly heartbreaking. The perpetrator charged with Jack's murder received a 10-year sentence with parole eligibility after seven years. This meant Jack's killer would walk free before his 23rd birthday. Our community has rightly asked, 'Is this justice?' Under the Making Queensland Safer Bill the consequences would be much clearer. For murder,

offenders would face life detention with a minimum non-parole period of 20 years. For manslaughter, the minimum non-parole period would rise to 15 years. These reforms ensure the punishment reflects the gravity of the crime.

Beyond the legal consequences, this bill also strengthens the rights of victims and their families. The opt-out changes to the register are sensible. I have seen firsthand with the Beasleys and others how traumatic basic administrative dealings with those government agencies can be. These changes will ensure families like the Beasleys are prioritised in our judicial process, that they are treated with the respect they deserve and that they are kept informed and involved as their case progresses. These changes matter because the impacts of crime ripple far beyond the immediate impact of the act itself. Jack's death rocked our community to its core. From his teammates at the Helensvale Hornets to his fellow students at Pac Pines state high, his loss was deeply felt. It is only right that our laws reflect the weight of this devastation and act to prevent such tragedies from happening again.

The Making Queensland Safer Bill is part of our broader plan to secure a better future for our state. Safety is not just about the here and now; it is about laying the foundation for a Queensland where everyone can thrive. By focusing on prevention and rehabilitation alongside this strong enforcement, we are building a justice system that prioritises community safety while addressing the root causes of crime. From what we have heard in this debate, those opposite have not learnt anything from the election result on 26 October. I have listened to a lot of contributions over the last couple of days and I could not tell you what their position is. I have absolutely no idea.

**Mr Nicholls:** Neither do they.

**Mrs Gerber:** I don't think they know either.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** Great interjections from the health minister and the youth justice minister. We saw them try to carve out most of the bill—


**Mr Power:** Not true.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** They did. They tried to carve out most of the bill and send it to next year. They have all spoken negatively about the legislation while conversely saying that somehow they accept the election result and that these laws are what Queenslanders want.

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Member for Lytton.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your protection. This was not about improving this legislation for those opposite; it was buying time to figure out how to resolve their own disunity, how to sort out the mess they find themselves in on how to respond to this bill. These laws are not being done in isolation; they are part of the most comprehensive youth justice policy platform an opposition has ever taken to an election. The Making Queensland Safer Bill is more than just a response to the youth crime crisis; it addresses Labor's failures of the past, tackles the challenges of the present and plans for the future, a future where every Queenslanders has a safe place to call home. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (5.14 pm): Today is the culmination of 10 years of hard work by the LNP. I well remember back in 2015-16 when the then freshly minted Labor government, with no mandate, started watering down the youth crime laws—youth crime laws that had been effective, that had driven bikies out of the state and that had seen the presentation numbers of young offenders in courts decline. As the member for Scenic Rim indicated, the Childrens Court annual report of 2014-15 records a decline of five per cent in individual presentations of youth offenders to the Childrens Court. Labor did not listen. They knew better. They abandoned the principle of deterrence and at the same time failed to embed gold standard early intervention. They failed on both counts. That failure became apparent almost immediately.

For the better part of a decade, the people of Townsville have been calling out for stronger laws. In 2017, during the election campaign, we promised a second police helicopter for Townsville. We were derided and laughed at by those opposite for suggesting that what the police told us they wanted, together with more boots on the ground, was what was needed to address the crime crisis that was developing in Townsville. They tried to laugh it out of court. Then, in the dying days of a dysfunctional government, they finally came to the party and said they would provide a helicopter for Townsville—but it was not just Townsville; there were helicopters everywhere. It was like a scene out of *Good Morning, Vietnam*—choppers here, choppers there. One could just ring up the then police minister and say, 'How about a chopper here?' They would run a two-week campaign, pretend to have been advocating for their community for 10 years and they would have a chopper landing in their front yard.

The reality is far different. The reality is there have been far too many tragedies. In the last term of government, there were 16 victims of alleged young offenders. All too tellingly we have heard the story of the member for Capalaba's family. I remember that day in January. It was the first shadow cabinet meeting we held in 2021. We held it down in the Redlands the weekend after it happened. That weekend we felt for the member for Capalaba. One of our earliest commitments was to do something about the youth crime crisis. We have held true to that promise, not only to the member for Capalaba but also to the families of all of those other people who have tragically lost their lives far too early because the youth crime laws that were working were watered down by Labor.

Those opposite misguidedly started changing the laws to remove consequences for actions. They gave a clear signal to young offenders that it did not matter what you did, it did not matter how many times you did it, you would be back on the street to do it again. We have heard the stories from Townsville of cars being stolen, the offenders being put before the courts and four hours after they had been given a suspended sentence and let out the front door they were arrested again by the police, having stolen a car. We have heard the stories from the members from Townsville. I have lost count of the number of times I went up to Townsville. I have been up there plenty of times. It is still one of my favourite places to go to. It was one of the first places I went to as health minister. Every time we went up there the No. 1 issue was the cars that were being stolen and the change in the dynamic. No longer were the young offenders stealing cars for a joy ride and leaving them on the side of the road; they were stealing cars and deliberately driving them at police. It was a game of chicken: who was going to blink first. It subsequently became a lottery of which police officer was going to be injured first, which car was going to be put off the road first and who was going to die first.

That lottery starts ending with the passage of these laws. These laws will take direct and strong action, not only for the people of Townsville—but it is important for the people of Townsville because they have been the epicentre of it for such a long time—but also for the people of Far North Queensland and Cairns where it has been a longstanding problem, as the member for Cook knows all too well—a problem that the current member for Cairns denied. I remember the debates in this place: it was not a problem, people were not talking to him about it. It was a problem in Cairns as much as it was in Townsville. In fact, in some respects some aspects of it started earlier.

It is a problem. It is a problem in Goondiwindi, it is a problem at the Gold Coast and it is a problem in Clayfield. In Brisbane, the very first large public meeting on crime was held in 2019 at the Eagle Farm Racecourse. Over 220 people from the Clayfield electorate came along to express their frustration at a weak Labor government that was failing to take strong action. The Labor government paid the price for its weak action and for not standing up for Queenslanders no matter where they are in the state. No matter if they are in Bulimba, Brisbane or Barcaldine—it does not matter where they are—they all feel the same pain.


During the middle of the election campaign, in my electorate of Clayfield, from the river to the racecourse, Racecourse Road was hit by youth criminals in a stolen car. They drove up the road and broke into five properties in one night, from midnight until 4 am. That was recorded on cameras. You could track them every step of the way. It is no wonder that the business owners were frustrated. It is no wonder that costs were going up for insurance and other business costs, such as for replacing plate glass windows, replacing the cash taken out of the till and replacing spoiled and stolen goods.

That is why on 26 October the community spoke as loudly as they did. That is why, together with our policies to heal the health crisis, the community decided to elect an LNP government that will make sure that we deliver value for money, deal with the cost-of-living crisis and manage the things that the Labor Party in their arrogance had ignored for too long. We are doing that this week with the passage of these bills. If a youth criminal thinks about breaking into someone's house, now they will think again.

I have heard a litany of excuses from those opposite. I have seen them ducking and weaving: they support the laws but they sort of don't support them being passed this week. On Monday, they scuttled out of their own caucus meeting—I think that is what they call it. They ducked away and bundled into the lifts. You could not get into the lifts because they were all bundled in there, coming up from level 4 to avoid the media so they did not have to express an opinion. I am pretty sure the member for Miller does not want to support them. The member for McConnel does not want to support them. The member for Cooper does not want to support them. We just heard from the member for Toohey, who sticks to his principles; I will give him that. The former police minister is the one who brought in the laws and trashed the conventions of this place by bringing in those changes without any notification. Talk about divided. Talk about political cowardice. They do not know what they want and they do not know how to get it.

Labor's actions created the youth crime crisis, and their repeated refusal to acknowledge that during their time in government is to their enduring shame and it will be to their enduring shame. They consistently told Queenslanders that youth crime was decreasing when the victim numbers were actually going up. However, it is not just about that. We also need gold standard early intervention, which I have spoken passionately about. I commend the minister for bringing an enormous amount of money and effort to making sure that young offenders are able to turn around their lives. We saw some of the great work that is being done, and more of it will be done under the funding program that the member will bring forward.

As my time on this particular matter comes to an end, it is appropriate to recognise the waste of time that was Labor's 10 years in office and, more importantly, the loss of life that will be their enduring shame for as long as every member in this place stays in this House. We will tie them to it until they leave. It will be a long time that we will be doing it.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (5.23 pm): In this House there are many things that are contested, but there are also those that are not. The community's right to feel safe is one of those that I am certain every member of this House—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Pause the clock. Members, I cannot hear the member on her feet. There is way too much noise.

**Ms LINARD:** The community's right to feel safe is something that I am certain every member of this House agrees on, as is wanting to see fewer victims of crime wherever they live, whatever the crime and whomever the perpetrator. From the outset, I acknowledge the voices of victims across my local community and across the Queensland community, as well as those who sit in this chamber on both sides of the House. Their losses and grief are deeply felt and sometimes unimaginable. Their experiences and courage to share them deserve to be respectfully acknowledged.

I also want to acknowledge that Queensland voted and I respect the will of the people. For some, the now government's often used refrain of Adult Crime, Adult Time was the reason and, while having no real meaning at law, it was a slogan that appeared to capture genuine community concern over offences being committed by young offenders and debate over whether the penalties being imposed in response to those offences adequately reflected community expectations. The Making Queensland Safer Bill is the government's attempt to give effect to the sentiment conveyed by their four-word slogan. That is not an easy task and I acknowledge that.

I am well acquainted with the Youth Justice Act, the Childrens Court Act, the Criminal Code and the Penalties and Sentences Act. When we were in government they underwent continued revision to equally give effect to the concerns of the Queensland community. Chief among those amendments was to make the first principle of the Youth Justice Act that the community should be protected from offenders, in particular recidivist high-risk offenders, because we all believe that the community should be safe.

However, it is precisely because of that complexity that changes should be given the consideration they are due and the examination they deserve, because the impacts, intended and unintended, can have far-reaching effects on arguably vulnerable cohorts in our community, victims and young people alike. Many of these changes have not undergone such examination or scrutiny by the public, victim support and advocacy groups, the legal fraternity or members of this House because their rushed nature has not allowed for it.

Regardless, there are elements of this bill that I do not stand to oppose. As I said from the outset, I respect the will of the people and the voices of the victims who have called for more or different action in respect of serious and repeat offenders. However, there are other elements contained within this bill that would have perverse outcomes for the very victims that it purports to serve and the community safety it claims to deliver. It is equally our job to call these out and hold the government to account. It is to those elements that I now turn.

The measure of any bill is its capacity to deliver the outcomes it purports to. As its name suggests, the Making Queensland Safer Bill is the government's attempt to make the community safer. In his own words, the Premier has said that this bill has one primary objective: fewer victims. However, by changing what a court must have primary regard to, the bill signals a significant change from a system focused on rehabilitation and breaking the cycle of offending to one prioritising punishment and retribution. While I appreciate keenly the desire of victims to see justice done and adequate punishment awarded, many victims first and foremost want to see the cycle of offending stop and the system work to prevent future

victims. I can find no evidence that supports the efficacy of retribution and denunciation as the primary principles upon which the sentencing of a person is based to improve community safety or result in an overall reduction of future victims across our community. If the government is in receipt of such evidence then I respectfully ask that it table it or draw the attention of the House to it.

Clause 15 of the bill provides that section 150 of the Youth Justice Act sentencing principles be altered to remove the principle that detention should be imposed as a last resort. The proposed amendments are incongruent with section 9 of the Penalties and Sentences Act and create the perverse outcome where the court in sentencing children must have primary regard to the harm caused to victims for all offences, but in sentencing adults—and only for violent and particular sexual offences—the court must have regard primarily to victim harm in conjunction with other factors. Clause 15 also includes a direction that—

... a court must not have regard to ... any principle that a sentence that allows the child to stay in the community is preferable.

This principle exists in the PSA for adults. This direction contravenes section 33 of the Human Rights Act, which provides that—

A child who has been convicted of an offence must be treated in a way that is appropriate for the child's age.

On the passing of this bill, children will be held to a moral and criminal culpability beyond that of adults. How is it defensible for the victims of adult crime, particularly given a majority of offences are committed by adults, not young people—that crimes perpetrated by those under 18 may see harsher penalties for certain offences, than those perpetrated by adults?

Debate, on motion of Ms Linard, adjourned.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Chatsworth, we have not even started on this motion yet and you have already come to my attention.

## MOTION

### Women and Girls' Health Strategy



**Mr MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.30 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. notes the former Miles Labor government's \$1 billion investment in the Women and Girls' Health Strategy;
2. notes that funding was provided for the Women and Girls' Health Strategy in the 2024-25 budget which was supported by the LNP;
3. calls on the Crisafulli LNP government to reaffirm its commitment to all measures contained within the Women and Girls' Health Strategy, including:
  - (a) sexual and reproductive health
  - (b) maternal health
  - (c) mental health and wellbeing
  - (d) all other priority health action areas;
4. condemns LNP Premier Crisafulli for his failure to include measurable KPIs on the improvement of women's health outcomes and access to women's health services in the charter letters of the Minister for Health and the Minister for Women; and
5. condemns the Crisafulli LNP government on their trashing of parliamentary democracy.

The evidence shows us that women and girls experience different health outcomes and can face barriers in receiving care. It is why Labor introduced the Women and Girls' Health Strategy, a 10-year plan to provide better tailored health care for women and girls around the state. It is a plan that was developed off the back of 12,000 women and girls sharing their stories, backed by \$1 billion in funding that will support the Termination of Pregnancy Action Plan, mental health support, assisted reproductive technologies and better care for pelvic pain and endometriosis.

This is funding that the Crisafulli LNP government backed in the budget just a few months ago, which makes it even more baffling that the Premier yesterday used an extraordinary motion, an unprecedented motion, in this House to gag his own MPs. In the election campaign, the Premier said that leadership is about knowing your team. Clearly, he does know his team. He knows that he cannot trust them. The Premier knows his team want to roll back a woman's right to choose. If given the opportunity, they would vote to make abortion a crime. Instead of giving them a conscience vote, he gave them no choice but to be silent.




The member for Scenic Rim told a church forum that the LNP wanted more anti-choice candidates to be endorsed so they could repeal abortion laws. The member for Gympie proudly said he had voted against those laws and he would continue to do so. Gympie is the same place where the LNP government plans to cut access to free walk-in, nurse-led clinics that support women's health services by 45 per cent. The Premier himself voted against decriminalising abortion and against giving more women access to safe termination of pregnancy, so did the members for Kawana, Moggill, Bonney, Surfers Paradise, Maroochydore, Nanango, Clayfield and Toowoomba South. The list goes on.

Actions speak louder than words. He said more than 100 times that changes to access to abortion were not part of his government's plan. If the Premier truly believed his LNP backbench could toe that line, he would not have had to introduce the motion yesterday. Where does it end? What other topics, laws and subject matters will this Crisafulli regime stifle debate or discussion on? It is undemocratic and flies in the face of the work that we are doing here.

Today, Queenslanders—indeed, Queensland women—deserve to hear the Crisafulli LNP government confirm in this House that it will not cut vital health services funded in this budget, like integrated women's health hubs in North Queensland, a donor register for donor-conceived people, access to IVF for those with complex medical conditions, statewide public fertility services for people suffering from cancer and the additional supports required to deliver the Termination of Pregnancy Action Plan. These programs, and many others delivered by Queensland Health, will improve the health outcomes for Queensland women and girls and they cannot be cut. We just cannot afford it.

On this side of the House, we are committed to advancing the rights and interests of women and girls, increasing their economic participation and working to achieve gender equality in Queensland. This is so incredibly important. It is so incredibly important that we continue to advance the legislation in this House to strengthen and improve access to services as new medicines, new treatments and new research become available but we cannot do that now under this new regime. Instead, we call on the government to continue funding the services we know work, the programs that will make a difference. This government is already laying the foundation for cuts and it is Queensland women who will pay for them.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will remind the House that the warnings still stand for the members for Waterford and Pine Rivers, so be aware.

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (5.35 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'this House' be omitted and the following inserted:

1. notes the former Labor government's failure to properly fund the Women and Girls' Health Strategy.
2. notes the former Labor government failed Queensland women in relation to:
  - (a) Queensland's DNA lab
  - (b) the delivery of maternity services in regional Queensland
  - (c) the availability of 'rape kits'
  - (d) the youth crime crisis
3. condemns the former Labor government for their failure to keep Queensland women and girls safe.

I have just listened to the cry of pain of an opposition leader with nowhere to go—the cry of pain of a union installed puppet who has been deserted by the Queensland Council of Unions. The Queensland Council of Unions lauded the LNP government for the motion that passed in this House yesterday. Jacqueline King from the Queensland Council of Unions said, 'Tick, what a good job.' The opposition leader is a puppet of the union movement.

There are many puppets over there of the union movement. It does not matter if they are the United Workers Union, the CFMEU, the ETU—the member is not the ETU anymore, that is right, I forgot about that. It does not matter if they are the AWU—they do not have the numbers in this place. It does not matter if they are the AMWU—they do not have the numbers in this place either. Those opposite are all puppets of the union movement.

On this side of the House, we encourage people to have a voice. We do not scuttle into caucus rooms out of sight of the cameras, nor do we scuttle out of our caucus rooms out of sight of the cameras. We have party rooms where everyone is encouraged to have their say.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I recognise these debates can be interesting at times but that was way out of line.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** The Women and Girls' Health Strategy acknowledges that the health challenges and outcomes women experience are different from those of men, as are their experiences and the barriers in navigating the health system. The strategy contains many laudable objectives such as co-designing services, collecting more and better data and having better linkages to the primary and tertiary health systems. These are all worthy objectives and something this government will work towards achieving; however, there is only one problem—earlier this year, when the then Labor government released the strategy, the then premier and now opposition leader said—

I'm proud to lead a government that champions women, their experiences and the solutions that will break down barriers now, and into the future.

He did not fund the future. There was no money there. It is an interesting concept 'now and into the future'. It sounds great. There was only one problem: there was no money in the budget to fund it.

They told the public that their health strategy was funded with \$4 billion, but that \$4 billion has been spent another three times. There is now \$12 billion of commitments but only \$4 billion of money in the budget. Only Labor can spend three times more money that they have actually put in the budget to be spent. We have seen this before. They are putting at the risk the Women and Girls' Health Strategy because the organisations that rely on the funding are now desperate for funding that is no longer there. There is a funding black hole of \$12 billion which is imperilling the delivery of this service.

That is not all. They have failed to deliver. We heard the Leader of the Opposition talk about women's health services. What about their failure around the delivery of birthing services? What about the closure of maternity wards in the member for Callide's electorate? We have heard him talk about that for four years now. They failed to fund them.

Our 100-day plan will deliver a world-class health system. We have already started on the health plan to ensure there are gynaecologists and obstetricians available for regional Queensland, which those opposite were not able to fund. Despite all their protestations, we have seen the rural GP workforce go backwards in the last 10 years. The Crisafulli LNP government has a plan for health services, including women's and girls' health services. We will deliver and every dollar in the budget will be spent on them.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Waterford, I point out that if I catch the members for Chatsworth and Miller quarrelling across the chamber again they will both be warned.

**Ms FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (5.41 pm): The health minister just spent more time talking about unions than he did talking about women's and girls' health. How embarrassing. How many times did he decide to tell us all in this chamber tonight that over on their side everyone is encouraged to have their say? I do not know where the member for Clayfield was yesterday, but we were all here in this chamber to bear witness to one of the most outrageous abuses of power we have ever seen in this place. Not only was it a complete insult to our democracy and the parliamentary systems we stand to uphold but it also completely disrespected the women of Queensland.

The Premier would have us believe that his action to gag the parliament was one of kindness: he was only protecting the women of Queensland. What the Premier's actions actually spell out is that he cannot trust anyone on his own team. He cannot trust anyone on his own team to stand firm on the one question he squirmed and avoided 132 times during the election campaign. He is so concerned that his own MPs would wind back women's rights that he decided to gag this entire parliament.

Does Premier David Crisafulli really believe that the women of Queensland cannot see through this? Does he really think they cannot understand the implications that this motion will have on future advancements in women's health? If for a moment we choose to humour the Premier and indulge him in the idea that his motivations were only about protecting and supporting the women and girls of Queensland, let us assess the extent of his other policies and commitments to women and girls. That is where we hit a problem. The Premier does not appear to have any policies about women's and girls' health and there is certainly nothing in the charter letters about women's and girls' health and KPIs about measuring the success of women's and girls' health initiatives.

We only need to look at their lack of policies compared to what we achieved. There was our \$1 billion investment in the Women and Girls' Health Strategy. This incredible strategy reflects the

voices of 12,000 Queensland women. We know that by allowing space for these important conversations we will continue to move women forward. When you completely gag the parliament from being able to actually progress women's health and their reproductive rights, that means women can go backwards.


During the Women and Girls' Health Strategy consultation we spoke with hundreds of women and girls—people like Balveen and her daughter, Viva, who taught us about the importance of health education. 'We need to normalise conversations about our bodies and wellbeing so our girls have the right words to advocate for themselves,' they said. How can we work towards providing more and better information on women's health issues if this parliament cannot even discuss one of the most critical issues surrounding women's health in our state parliament—that is, the Termination of Pregnancy Act?

I am so proud that the Labor government passed that legislation and took abortion out of the Criminal Code as an offence against morality. That is something that most of those opposite would like to see reintroduced. We know that is the case because the Premier cannot trust them to actually continue to advance women's and girls' health.

On this side of the House we do not shy away from conversations about women's reproductive health. We are ready to address it. We have not once doubted our caucus members' personal opinions in relation to a woman's right to choose. In fact, only earlier this year we announced over \$40 million for a Termination of Pregnancy Action Plan, to boost the workforce, introduce virtual resources and provide wraparound support to those in need. These are types of progressions that are possible when we can debate the topic of termination of pregnancy and make amendments to important legislation.

What we are most concerned about is that, by not allowing any debate on the Termination of Pregnancy Act, if there are changes to health practitioners' scope of practice or there are changes in the termination drugs that can be available, the women of Queensland will miss out. That is the point. Our government, the Miles Labor government, marked the historic moment for the progression of funding and support for Queensland women. The Premier's gag order also marks an historic moment in Queensland's history but for all the wrong reasons.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (5.46 pm): I rise to support the amendment moved by the Minister for Health. We have just had a classic example of politicking by the new opposition. They had all morning to get sorted for question time and they could not do that. It was the most embarrassing question time we have seen in a long time. Now we have this motion that has been moved by this opposition. We have just heard from the shadow treasurer—a former minister—who absolutely failed to support women in Queensland.

Let us talk about the women in Queensland who wanted to have their babies in regional Queensland. Women who wanted access to rape kits were failed by the former government. What about the women who were just looking for basic health services in regional Queensland? Where was the former Miles government and where was the former Palaszczuk government? For 10 years regional women have had to sit by and suffer because of the former government. How dare they come in here now and try to say that we are not standing up for women. What about the mums in Mackay who were suffering due to the horrific services up there when the now opposition leader was the health minister? Maybe it was the now shadow treasurer who was the health minister; who would know which one?

Our regional hospitals across the state are sending birthing mothers to other facilities. Since 1 July 2023, under the watch of the former Miles government, seven facilities in regional and rural Queensland had periods of reduced capacity in their maternity services. That is not even going out towards Chinchilla, which is probably still on bypass. They shut down maternity services. I know that the member for Callide wants to talk about that.

In the short time I have left, I will talk about the biggest failure in a justice system, I would suggest, worldwide. Under the former Labor government we had what I would call the DNA debacle at Forensic Science Queensland. It is an absolute shame. There are women in Queensland still waiting for justice to be served because they cannot get their matters through the courts because of this debacle.

In fact, there are 3,368 major crime cases waiting on DNA in this state. These are shameful figures. Let's have a little lesson for the opposition. Do your research, and when you are in government and when you have that honour and opportunity, how about you do some work! When the then opposition raised the DNA debacle over and over again we were accused of politicking.


**Ms Camm:** They said we were politicking.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection; we were accused of politicking. We had to drag them kicking and screaming to listen. The now shadow treasurer's head is rightfully down because she was part of an administration that oversaw the biggest failure of a justice system this world has ever seen. We had an inquiry and a commission but there are still 40,000 cases waiting for DNA. Less than a month ago I sat down with a judge in Townsville who told me it is a disgrace that he has to adjourn cases because they are waiting until October next year to get DNA through. What an absolute debacle—10 years of failures!

**Mr Dick:** You can fix it now. You can sort it out.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection. We will fix your mess because we have to. Within a week I sat down with Dr Kirsty Wright and I made that commitment. Do those opposite remember her? The opposition deputy leader ridiculed Dr Kirsty Wright, Hedley Thomas and victims of crime who are still waiting to have justice. How dare the deputy opposition leader come in here and lecture us about delivering things on time and on budget! He is the biggest failure of a treasurer this state has ever seen. The LNP will fix your mess.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (5.51 pm): Despite what those opposite may say, on this side of the House we are proud to have been part of a government that made the health of women and girls a priority in Queensland. Our Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy 2032 was the opportunity for generational positive health outcomes for Queensland women and girls because investing in women's health makes sense. It is very clear that the LNP government is going to savagely cut women's health in our state. One of the things I was most proud of in our Women and Girls' Health Strategy was that culturally and linguistically diverse women and girls were amplified as a priority community, but it is clear they will be the first to now miss out on vital services under this government.

I want to explain why it is important they be prioritised. Around one in five females, 22 per cent in Queensland, are born overseas. Evidence shows us that when it comes to the health of multicultural women, cultural beliefs may prevent access or engagement in areas such as mental health, sexual health, aged care and palliative care. More generally, we know that culturally and linguistically diverse women have been shown to be at increased risk of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and poor mental health. Despite the high risk of these diseases, women from CALD groups are less likely to be pro-active in accessing health care. Cultural barriers, language barriers and financial strain all play a role in hindering multicultural women's access to health and wellbeing services. This linguistic disconnect can breed frustration and anxiety, creating a substantial barrier to accessing care. Many women have been exposed to culturally insensitive practices which make them reluctant to engage with health providers. When faced with difficult choices between paying bills, putting food on the table or seeking health care, many may reluctantly prioritise immediate financial concerns, neglecting their own long-term health and wellbeing.

One of the most important areas for culturally and linguistically diverse women is that they are particularly likely to have lower contraceptive use, greater reliance on less effective contraceptive methods and a higher risk of unintended pregnancy. A wonderful woman from our African community shared with me that many women from her community were unaware of what contraceptive pills were, and once they were provided with health education they would begin to ask for 'the magic pills that keep the baby away'.


I have visited the Maternal Health Hub at Logan Central which was established for culturally and linguistically diverse women. It is a fantastic facility. Health clinicians explained to me that in the past CALD women would present to the Logan Hospital in labour not having had one medical appointment in their entire term of pregnancy. There was no assessment of risk, no scans and no midwifery care. These are the issues we addressed when we were in power and why we ensured continued investment and improvements in reproductive, sexual and maternal health.

Unlike those opposite, we are never scared to speak about reproductive health in this House. This is our record. We now have a new government and we have already seen a lack of interest in women's health. There is certainly no interest in the health and wellbeing of culturally and linguistically diverse women. There is not one reference or tangible KPI for women's health outcomes in the health minister's charter letter. There is not one reference in the minister for women's charter letter. Was there consultation with the ministers before these letters were finalised? The health minister, being a man, may not have turned his mind to it, but surely the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security and Minister for Multiculturalism thought about culturally and linguistically diverse women. What a shame! At a time when the LNP can finally boast that they have more than a small minibus of women in their party room, they still could not bring themselves to prioritise the health needs of women.

But really this leopard has not changed its spots. I recently came across an article in the *Brisbane Times* about the LNP limelights who are now committee chairs. To be honest, I had not paid a lot of attention to those appointments, but the photos in the article really sparked my interest. The article lined up photos of all of their new chairs in a rather arresting and disturbing collage as the faces of nine white men stared back at me. I tabled that article for history.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Brisbane Times*, dated 9 December 2024, titled 'The LNP MPs paid extra to lead scrutiny of the government's new laws' [263].

Not one woman has been appointed a committee chair. They could not elevate one woman in their expanded backbench. They are telling us they do not believe that one LNP woman was worthy of this role. No wonder women's health and the health of culturally and linguistically diverse women is not a priority—not when your leadership is pale, male and, with due respect, stale.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (5.56 pm): I am happy to rise in this House to speak about women's health in Queensland. I have done that many times in this chamber because the former minister for women neglected women in the bush, especially when it came to maternity services here in Queensland. I will not back down when it comes to defending maternity services in rural and regional Queensland. I will happily stand up for the women in Queensland who were neglected by the former Labor government. It is incredibly rich for the member for Murrumba to come into this chamber and move a motion suggesting that the LNP does not care about women.

Let's talk about his record for women in the bush when he was health minister. He was the health minister during the 'bush baby' crisis here in Queensland. He was the health minister who closed the Chinchilla maternity ward—sorry, they could not accept it was closed. They called it bypassed, but it was bypassed over 2,000 days. That is not a bypass; that is a closure. That is the record of the former premier when he was health minister. I will not be lectured to by those opposite when it comes to women's health in Queensland.

The Leader of the Opposition was deputy premier when Gladstone went on bypass. Gladstone, a large regional centre here in Queensland, did not have a maternity service for nearly a year. For nearly a year the women in that community could not access a fundamental and critical service in Queensland, and that is an absolute disgrace. I happily stood up alongside those women who were neglected by the former Labor government. When it comes to women in the bush, let's talk about the member for Waterford's failures when she was health minister.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr HEAD:** Thank you for your guidance, team. There were multiple failures and many games played by the member for Waterford when she was health minister. I tabled a petition with nearly 4,000 signatories asking the government to reinstate maternity services at Biloela. Did we get a reopened maternity service? No, we did not. Time and time again we had all these excuses about a lack of staff and we had no formal commitment by the former government to reinstate those services.


What have we found out since? I have already been working with the new Minister for Health and his team. We committed to reopening maternity services in Biloela—unreservedly committed—because we back in rural maternity services and we want to support women's health in the bush. What did we inherit? We have been advised that we inherited an operating theatre at Biloela—and there is only one there—that is not optimal for surgery or birthing services. We had the former minister for health saying that they might reinstate maternity services in Biloela when it was safe to do so but that there were no staff. Well, you are not going to get staff to a facility if there is no facility for them to use. It is like trying to say, 'We'll get a chef but we'll worry about the kitchen later.'

Another thing I found very interesting was that when Gladstone was on bypass for a very long time the member for Gladstone was incredibly silent on that issue. He was silent when the women in Central Queensland were neglected under the former Labor government. The new minister is already cleaning up the mess that we inherited. Yesterday, all of a sudden—when we now have a health minister who is dedicated to reinstating a lot of these rural maternity services and is working with the frontline staff who are critical to delivering these services—he finally asked a question. Who would have thought after all these years of silence that he would finally ask a question?

I am not afraid to ask questions, and I have already taken the opportunity in this chamber to ask a question about the gaps in rural maternity services and the steps the new minister is taking to reinstate maternity services in Queensland, because I do care. Regardless of what side of the chamber I sit on in this House, I will always be asking questions of the government and ensuring the government of the day is delivering services in Queensland.

I cannot finish this speech without mentioning those I have worked with in advocating for better maternity services for women in the bush and who have shared their stories: Yvette and Beatrix—with Beatrix being born on the Warrego Highway; Chloe and Matilda—with Matilda being born on the Bruce Highway; and Katie and Dougy—and Dougy would not be here if it were not for rural maternity services. The LNP absolutely support women in Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.01 pm): Improving the lives, rights and wellbeing of women and girls in Queensland across all facets of society is impressive. I would like to comment on the member for Callide's words with regard to standing up for his constituents. That is very noble, and I think all of us would do the same, but what have you done this week with regard to standing up to make sure the workplace attraction fund isn't going to be cut?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton—

**Ms PEASE:** I do not know if I have heard any words from you—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton, you will direct your comments through the chair, not start quarrelling across the chamber.

**Ms PEASE:** Thank you for your direction. I would like to hear from the member for Callide. If he is standing up for his constituents, what is the date and what are you doing? What have you done to stand up? One of the things the member for Callide actually pointed out in your speech was that you were advised there was a shortage of health service providers in your electorate. You are aware of that being a problem, yet have you stood—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton—

**Ms PEASE:** Member for Callide, have you stood up to make sure that the attraction fund is not being withdrawn?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton, focus your delivery to me, not across the chamber.

**Ms PEASE:** Thank you for your guidance, Speaker. It is important to remember that 50 per cent of Queensland is made up of women. When women and girls are well and healthy throughout their lives and can participate equally in social, economic and cultural activities, then society is much stronger for it. Female contributions in science, business, government—and maybe more so on this side of the House in government—and all aspects of Australian life are on the up.

The Labor Party I proudly represent played a significant role in the advancement of women, particularly in this state. I am a proud member of the Labor Party and I am proud of our achievements on behalf of Queensland women, yet sometimes it feels like the clock has stopped in Queensland when it comes to the protection, participation and advancement of women. My interstate friends are absolutely aghast when I tell them it was not until 2018 that termination of pregnancy was decriminalised here in Queensland.

Recent polling from the Australian Institute found that a woman's right to choose is supported by an overwhelming majority of Queenslanders—men and women alike—prompting their executive director to say that Queenslanders are more progressive than commentators give them credit for. But do not let the public sentiment get in the way of the LNP dogma on the issue of women's rights! Despite significant progress and advancements on women's rights by successive ALP governments, every time the LNP forms government in Queensland it is as if women have donned weighted moon boots and they walk around in slow motion. Women are stunted by those opposite.

What we saw this week with the gag in this parliament on women's rights was evidence of this sentiment. It certainly will not take very long for Queensland women to work out that the Crisafulli government is a hindrance to our lives. The gag this week was absolutely shameful. It was embarrassing. It was a poor precedent from a new government that should be sharp, positive and purposeful in its infancy. Even Hayden Johnson in the *Courier-Mail* stated—


Queensland's democratic institution has been trampled in the Premier's desperate attempt to avoid a politically deadly backroom revolt on abortion.

Silencing your own government in this manner, effectively telling your own party room, ministers and colleagues—some of whom are women—that you have no faith in them not to honour a commitment, does not bode well for the new Premier of Queensland. It is poor policy and it is weak.

For instance, what if there were a technical or medical advancement that helps a woman's right to choose? 'Oops, sorry, we can't make any changes to that because there is a gag order on that topic so we cannot talk about it.' It is irrational. It is nonsensical. It shows the ineptitude of this new government. It is weak, and it is shameful.

However, on this side of the House we are not afraid to talk about women's rights. What stunned me the most was the deafening silence of the female members of the LNP in this parliament. There are not many of them, but did they speak up in their LNP party room before or after this gag was voted on? Were they bullied, as we are bullied by those opposite, into silence? Were they too afraid to speak? I fail to understand how they stood and voted for this week's gag, like turkeys voting for Christmas. Compare the LNP's actions this week with Labor's record on women's rights.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (6.07 pm): How hypocritical this is from the only political party in Queensland's history to legally erase women from the statute books. They cannot even tell you what is a woman. I see the former women's minister putting her hands on her head—and so she should, because she was the one who could not tell Queenslanders what is a woman. It was only the Labor Party that took women out of the statute books. Women have a right to know what their access is to maternity services and a range of services throughout this state. Women have a right to health services, safety and justice.

I want to address the issue that my colleague the member for Callide alluded to with regard to the right of women to have their babies safely in maternity services. I hear the yawn from the former minister for women. It is not a laughing matter; it is a serious issue. Babies died because the previous government presided over a record number of closures of maternity services. In January 2023, 37 maternity services had closed under Labor. As my colleague said, they called some of them 'bypass' but they were closed. This is when babies were born on the side of the road, putting their lives at risk, and mothers felt like they were left behind because the former Labor government did not think their rights as women mattered.

I want to address the issue of rape kits. How terrible is it when a woman has been through one of the most horrific experiences, a rape, and they have to wait up to nine hours to get a rape kit. To explain to those opposite who have gone a little more silent now, it is a woman's right to have access to justice and to be treated in the health system in a timely way, so she then ultimately has access to a timely response in the justice system. If you have to wait for nine hours for a rape kit, that means you are not able to take a shower, you are left in the clothes that you were wearing as you suffered that horrendous rape, all because of the former Labor government's failure. It is a woman's right to access a health service and a justice service, but they had to wait up to nine hours in the clothes that they had been raped in. Terrible! Absolutely disgraceful!


We heard also from the Attorney-General about one of the worst justice failures in this state which has most impacted upon women with the DNA forensic lab failures and what that has meant where people do not know the outcomes. I know my colleague, the member for Whitsunday who is now the minister, had unleashed quite a number of examples of what that meant—the human toll of women who did not know whether their kits had been appropriately tested or we found out in circumstances where there was no DAP, there had been a failure in the system, that they had not received justice. Women's rights to justice were denied by the Labor government. They were so incompetent. They were not listening to those women's rights.

We have put first and foremost the need for health services. It is in our charter letter, particularly around health services when you need them. Having a baby in a local hospital is a health service when you need it. If you have been through the horror of a rape, having access to a rape kit so you can be treated and dealt with in a timely way so you do not have the additional humiliation and suffering while you wait is a health service, a right for women that should be addressed, that the previous Labor government did not.

Let's talk about the Women and Girls' Health Strategy which had unfunded commitments from the previous government. We know that a \$4 billion tab had been overcommitted. In fact, Labor had overcommitted on these health programs by three times. It is not just the funding of the Women and Girls' Health Strategy they put at risk; there is \$12 billion of unfunded health commitments and programs that they did not fund. They do not want to talk about that. They think it does not exist. But they have a record. The DNA failure was their record. The rape kits issue was their record. Women having babies on the side of the road was their record. So it should not be a surprise to us that they did not properly

fund the Women and Girls' Health Strategy. That was their failure. There is the callous disregard of the Labor Party that used women as their political pawns when they should have been respecting them by providing health services where and when they need them.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (6.12 pm): It is interesting to follow the member for Maroochydore, the Minister for Women, who every day thinks she can just say 'women's rights' and that will cover the whole thing. That is basically her argument; it is what she says all the time.

I honestly thought that the Liberal National Party might have learned some lessons from the dreadful mistakes of the Newman days when, after just one term, they squandered a record majority basically because they could not get out of the way of their own arrogance, their incredible level of hubris and their inability to balance their ideology with the needs of Queenslanders. I doubt the thousands of public servants who lost their jobs, the hundreds of non-government organisations many of which are fundamental to the progression of women's rights in this state but were gagged and saw their funding cut, the families of the children who were impacted by the closure of the Barrett Adolescent Centre, the LGBTIQ+ community—in fact, any Queensland—I cannot imagine that they would have thought there could be a worse LNP government than the Newman LNP government. However, what we have seen in the first sitting days of the 58th Parliament is that the Crisafulli LNP government has basically picked up where Newman left off and gone even further.

We are only in our third parliamentary sitting day and already Premier Crisafulli and his government have attacked the most vulnerable people in our state. They have gagged every member of this parliament because the LNP backbench cannot be trusted. In an unprecedented move, they have trashed democratic conventions to do exactly that.

It has been fascinating to see some of the Facebook comments that are on the pages of a number of government members opposite around what happened yesterday. This is of great interest. All members should have a good look at this. Go and have a look at the member for Oodgeroo's Facebook page and see some of the comments on there. Her base are not very happy—not very happy at all—about a government being gagged, about a parliament being gagged.

We heard throughout the election that the Premier said—and we have heard this already tonight—that leadership is about knowing your team. Given his unprecedented move to fetter the role of every member of parliament and prevent every one of us from fully representing our constituents in this House, he obviously knows them all too well. He knows they want to roll back a woman's right to choose and, given the opportunity, they would vote to make abortion a crime in this state once again. We know that because they explicitly told us that. Specifically, there were two LNP members who made the clarion call when they suggested during the campaign that the current abortion laws needed to be repealed or revised. Of course, we have heard what the member for Scenic Rim said to a church forum about wanting more anti-choice candidates to be endorsed so they could repeal the abortion laws. Guess what? The Premier and the LNP hand-picked a whole array of anti-choice candidates, a number of whom are sitting in the House right now.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Southern Downs, another outburst like that and you will be warned.

**Ms ENOCH:** Tony Perrett, the member for Gympie, proudly voted against the laws and said, 'I'll continue to do that.' Let's not get started on the multiple anti-choice candidates who were caught out telling voters at polling booths that they would vote to criminalise a woman's right to have control over her own reproductive health, including, I have to say—


**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms ENOCH:** Yes, that is right—the LNP candidate for Stretton and the LNP candidate for my electorate of Alger were very open about the fact that they were very much anti-choice. Of course, on this side of the House we are proud to support women's reproductive rights, and we are not afraid to talk about it. We know that our team will overwhelmingly vote to protect the rights of women in this state. We are proud of our team's record in this space. We have heard about the \$1 billion that has been put to the Women and Girls' Health Strategy. It is a strategy that was developed and co-designed with 12,000 Queensland women and girls. Of course, it is a strategy that looks at all of these really important services for women and girls. We already know that the LNP have been talking about cutting back very important services that make a difference and that were part of the Women and Girls' Health Strategy.



The Premier and those opposite—the government—have promised a fresh start. What we have seen so far from this Premier is far from fresh. It, in fact, stinks; it absolutely reeks. This side of the House, the Labor opposition, will continue to fight for the rights of women every single day.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. AJ CANN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.17 pm): Chloe Stanley and baby Everlee; Jenna McGregor and baby Hugo—Jenna is my local constituent. Under the Labor government, her baby died because of the failures of the health ministers, because of the failures of the then minister for women, because of the failures of the then premier. I have permission from Jenna to stand up in this House and talk at every opportunity about the failure of the former government to keep women safe. They only want to talk about the narrative that suits them. They do not want to speak about all women—all women's rights in this state, whether they are pro-choice or pro-life. They only want to speak about the values that suit them, not the values that suit all Queensland women, and the values that get each and every member of this House elected to the privileged position of being able to stand up for women in our community, no matter what their values are.

Arrogance, hubris and ideology—we have seen that on show over the last two sittings. I am starting to believe that those opposite are not coming to terms with the fact that they are not in government and that what they have left is a legacy of failure when it comes to women's safety in this state.

I am the Minister for Domestic and Family Violence. The amendment to the motion refers to Labor's failure to keep Queensland women and girls safe. Breaches of domestic violence orders skyrocketed under the former government. Strangulation crimes skyrocketed under the former government. Domestic violence skyrocketed under the former government. There was a lack of funding for perpetrators and no accountability. Women's lives were put at risk because of the former minister's failure to actually give a buggie—I withdraw. She stopped focusing on the issue to focus more on the PR campaign. That is what we saw from those opposite.

When the Premier yesterday moved a motion he demonstrated leadership—as our party has, with a united approach—to ensure women's safety, security and choice in this state. What those opposite do not like is that for the next four years they actually have to think. They have to come up with a strategy. They actually have to—

**Mr Last:** They have to do some work.


**Ms CANN:**—do some work. I take the interjection from the member for Burdekin. They have to do some work with the resources they have. I want to table for the House an article about the coronial investigations that are underway at the Mackay Base Hospital for the women of my community who were failed.

*Tabled paper:* Article from ABC News Online, dated 12 March 2024, titled 'Coroner investigating another two baby deaths within months at Mackay Base Hospital shortly after damning review' [\[264\]](#).

The member for Mackay sits in this House—the former member for Mackay held a safe seat for the Labor Party—because those opposite failed women in this state. The member for Rockhampton sits here because those opposite failed the women of this state. Many members are in this House because of the failures of those opposite. Let that be a warning to them, but they are still not listening.

Women, children and families in our community want to be safe where they live. What those opposite do not understand is that this government was given a mandate at the election to deliver safety in our communities and safety for women. We will be a government that focuses on consequences for actions. We will be a government that focuses on victims. I recall the way in which the previous minister for women focused on victims. I have spoken to a rape victim from Rockhampton and to her mother. This woman was sent home to take photos of her injuries and was not given care. All she received from those opposite was a text message. Let women know: we will look after women's safety in this state.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (6.22 pm): The member for Whitsunday speaks about the importance of all women and all women's views having a role and a place in this House. That is what is so absolutely offensive about the motion passed yesterday in this place to gag every woman in this House—regardless of party, regardless of persuasion and regardless of background and view. It was an absolute shocker—something we have never seen before and something I hope we never have to see again in this House.

In March this year the Miles Labor government released a \$1 billion Women and Girls' Health Strategy after 12,000 Queensland women and girls spoke up about their needs. They told us they want action on health conditions such as endometriosis. It should not take an average of seven years for a woman to get a diagnosis for an illness that affects one in six women. The health minister tonight has said that the health needs of women are distinct and the Premier has said that he has given his minister clear KPIs, so imagine my surprise when a brief Ctrl-F search revealed that the words 'woman' or 'women' do not appear once in the charter letter for the Minister for Health. In fact, neither the Minister for Health nor the Minister for Women have KPIs for the delivery of healthcare services for women in Queensland. It turns out that the invisibility of women in health care is not just a metaphor when it comes to the LNP in Queensland.

Labor recognises the important part that Queensland has to play in this. Women are sick of hearing, 'You're just stressed', 'It's normal to have some pain', 'Perhaps you're overreacting' or 'Maybe I should speak to your husband' and then, when things go really wrong, 'Well, you should have presented sooner.' We are sick of being silenced. We are sick of being told by practitioners that severe pain is normal, that postnatal depression is the 'baby blues' and that we are being hysterical. The gender gap in health care is obvious. In Australia there is five times more funding research into erectile dysfunction, which affects 19 per cent of men, than there is into premenstrual syndrome, which affects 90 per cent of women.

I rise tonight to support the motion. I want to ask the Premier what his plans are to address this issue. We represent 50.1 per cent of Queenslanders. We are the majority. We are 47 per cent of the workforce and contribute a trillion dollars annually towards Australia's GDP. The women and girls of Queensland are watching and relying on us in this House to speak on the issues that matter to them. They want to know if they have a place in this chamber, if they will have representation in this parliament. We here are the stewards of our electorates; we represent their voices.

Yesterday our voices were silenced in an unprecedented and shameful move by the government to place a gag order on the Termination of Pregnancy Act. It should not take a gag order against the Premier's own members to protect women's rights from the assaults from this LNP government. It should not take a motion in the House to stop women's rights from sliding backwards. It is nearly 2025 and women are exhausted from fighting for progress, so I do not want the Premier to expect us to be relieved and give him a pat on the back simply for locking in the status quo.


This government has silenced our voices to keep fighting for women's rights in this space. Will the new LNP government at least honour the commitments that we have made under the former Labor government's women's health plan? Will the government maintain our crucial mental health outreach and reproductive health throughout the regions? Will they uphold our strong laws, including the criminalisation of coercive control and affirmative consent, and maintain our government's investment in sexual and reproductive health including publicly funded termination of pregnancy?

Overnight we have learned that the health minister has axed the workforce attraction scheme to attract healthcare workers to the regions. The regional members of this government have remained absolutely silent on this. Where are the strong advocates standing up for the regions—those members who were elected on a platform—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask the member to withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member has taken offence.

**Ms BUSH:** I withdraw. Where are the regional members who were elected on being a strong local regional champion? Where are they now? The women of Queensland are watching, and I want them to know that Labor will not stand for their voices being gagged and their healthcare needs being ignored in this place. I support the Leader of the Opposition's motion. I call on this government to move beyond the platitudes and to maintain investments in all areas of our Women and Girls' Health Strategy.

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.27 pm): I rise to speak to the amendment, in particular the way the former Labor government has failed women in relation to the youth crime crisis. Vyleen White, Kate Leadbetter, Natalie Merlehan, Emma Lovell, Sheree Robertson, Michale Chandler, Kelsey Davies, Leanne Barsby, Maira Cappiello: these are the women—the wives, the mothers, the daughters—who have paid the ultimate price at the hands of the youth crime crisis started by the former Labor government. These women—these daughters, these wives—lost their lives and suffered egregious harm. Leanne Barsby

was the victim of a violent and armed home invasion where a 14-year-old punched her in the chest and head, leaving her with seizures. Maira Capiello was a woman who was sexually assaulted by a 10-year-old boy in Cairns.

These are the women who have paid the ultimate price because of the youth crime crisis that started under the former Labor government which they failed to do anything about. Why? Every single time before the election that Labor stood up and said youth crime was going down, they knew it was going up. The incoming government briefs—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will ask you to talk to the motion and not the bill before the House.

**Mrs GERBER:** Absolutely. The amended motion talks about the women who have suffered at the hands of the youth crime crisis.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am also conscious we have a bill before the House.

**Mrs GERBER:** Certainly, Mr Speaker. I am talking about youth crime and I am talking about the increase—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** It is in the motion; youth crime is in the motion. Read the motion, people! Read the motion. The reason those opposite are interjecting is they do not want to hear about the fact that youth crime continued to go up under them, they knew it and they continued to deceive Queenslanders. The youth crime crisis went up 12 per cent in the last financial year under the former Labor government, and every single time they stood up and said it was going down they knew they were deceiving Queenslanders and they continued to say it. They continued to say it because it suited their political game, because they wanted to hold on to power and because they cared more about the politics than they did the people. They cared more about the politics than they did the women who were victims of crime in this state.

**Mr SMITH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I taught Kelsie Davies in year 7 and in year 9. I would appreciate—

**Mr SPEAKER:** That is not a point of order.

**Mr SMITH:** I take personal offence and I would ask for a withdrawal.

**Mr SPEAKER:** A point of order is not an opportunity for you to get up and make a speech.

**Mr SMITH:** I take personal offense.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, that is not personal offence. No, I am going to rule that out of order. Member for Currumbin, while youth crime might be mentioned in the motion, be very careful. We have a bill before the House about youth crime.

**Mrs GERBER:** Certainly, Mr Speaker. I want to talk about the Labor government's record when it comes to failing women in the DNA debacle that they failed to fix. When we in opposition raised it time and time again in question time, we raised the individual stories of those victims of the DNA lab. We put those to the Labor government when they were in power. We put them as individual stories of victims, and what did they tell those victims, those women? They said we were making it up. They denied that the DNA lab debacle was even happening. They denied it, they failed to act on it and those women will not and have not seen justice. There could be rapists and murderers currently walking our streets as a result of the massive maladministration and failure of those opposite when it came to the DNA lab. It is the biggest failure of a government I have seen in my lifetime. It is absolutely disgraceful and still they laugh about it and still they continue to act like they have no accountability for the complete and utter failure that was the DNA lab.

Women in this state deserve so much better than those opposite. They deserve so much better than what they got from Labor. Under a Crisafulli government they will be heard.

*(Time expired)*

Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to.

**AYES, 51:**

**LNP, 51**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Blejje, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

**NOES, 34:**

**ALP, 34**—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Division: Question put—That the motion, as amended, be agreed to.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Ring the bells for one minute.

**AYES, 51:**

**LNP, 51**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

**NOES, 34:**

**ALP, 34**—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House:

1. notes the former Labor government's failure to properly fund the Women and Girls' Health Strategy.
  2. notes the former Labor government failed Queensland women in relation to:
    - (a) Queensland's DNA lab
    - (b) the delivery of maternity services in regional Queensland
    - (c) the availability of 'rape kits'
    - (d) the youth crime crisis
  3. condemns the former Labor government for their failure to keep Queensland women and girls safe.
- Sitting suspended from 6.41 pm to 7.30 pm.

## MOTION

### Order of Business



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (7.30 pm): I move—

That government business order of the day No. 1 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 10 December (see p. 265).

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Given that this is the member for Maryborough's first speech, I seek the indulgence of the chamber so that the speech may be listened to with the respect that it deserves.



**Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (7.30 pm): With pride and gratitude, I rise to give my first speech as the member for Maryborough. This is a remarkable moment for me and my family. Personally, it marks the realisation of a lifelong dream, but my story of how someone like me could come to stand here is just another that highlights the incredible opportunity Australia provides—where hard work and determination can turn aspirations into reality, a great nation that values democracy and freedom and where the possibilities are limitless for those who strive to achieve them.

The fact that now I represent the people and communities of Maryborough in this place would have been the remotest of possibilities in 1970, when I was born in the small mountain village of Agrilos, Greece, more than 15,000 kilometres from here. My childhood was carefree and deeply connected to nature and shaped by my parents, who worked as olive farmers and builders. I have cherished memories of exploring the countryside with friends, uncovering the beauty of the Peloponnese region. My Christian beliefs played a significant role in my upbringing, with family attendance at our church on Sundays.

After completing the equivalent of year 12 I fulfilled my duty in the Greek military, where I had the privilege of training in the Special Forces. My military service was not just a phase of my life; it was a foundation upon which I built my character and values. It gave me the tools to approach political life with resilience, integrity and a commitment to excellence. This demanding experience also instilled in me the resilience and discipline that has guided me throughout my life. After my service, I moved to Crete to work in the building industry. It was there that I met my wife, Tricia, who has been my greatest partner in life. I met Tricia at a traditional Greek taverna and, being a romantic, that was where everything started! Shortly after, I was transferred to Athens. Tricia joined me and we stayed in Athens for several years. We married in 1997, and in 1998 we made the bold decision to start anew in Australia—a land of opportunity and the home where we would raise our children, Yannis and Zoe.

In Australia we built our lives working in the accommodation industry, leasing and later owning several motels, with our final one located in Maryborough. We became Australian citizens at a citizenship ceremony in Brisbane's City Hall on 17 March 2004. It was one of the happiest days of my life. For immigrants, settling in Australia is not always easy. For all of the positive attributes in this country, it is sometimes hard to find work and to have our experience and qualifications recognised. Settling in an area with a community of a similar cultural background is helpful, but that is not always the case in a regional centre. It is also expensive compared to many countries, so buying a house and establishing roots can be hard. The reward, though, is that, in my experience, Australians recognise the work ethic of immigrants and are willing to give people a fair go. We are welcomed into the community, and not through any sense of obligation but because they can see we have something to offer. Our customs and traditions might be a little bit different, but if we are willing to be part of the community the community is willing to embrace us.

After selling the business in 2022, I decided it was time to pursue a lifelong dream: serving my community with a party that reflects my values. My path to becoming politically active, and then seeking election, shows the opportunity that this country has to offer. The fact that the immigrant son of an olive farmer from Greece can be part of a government led by the grandson of an immigrant sugarcane farmer from Italy is all you need to know about what is possible in Queensland and Australia. Part of why I sought election is to protect and enhance exactly the things that made this possible: the idea that you are rewarded for your endeavours; that strong communities, with the right balance of government support, are the key to a strong society; and that strong communities are the function of strong families. This last value of family is particularly close to my heart and will be a major theme of mine in this chamber.

Saturday, 26 October 2024 will hold a special place in my heart as the day I was elected to this place, but it was Saturday, 27 October 2018 that shaped me and my family more—the day our son took his own life at the age of 17. My Christian faith, my family and my community got me through those darkest times. This was the start of my family's drive to improve and advocate for better mental health services for teenagers. Tricia, Zoe and I have worked closely with our federal member, Llew O'Brien, in establishing headspace in Maryborough. I also created a website called Let it Out Now, a platform where teenagers can vent their feelings without fear of repercussions. Our daughter, Zoe, is currently studying interior design at university in Brisbane where she is excelling. Zoe loves everything about uni and I have no doubt that she will succeed in whatever she chooses to do in life.

The Maryborough electorate, established in 1865, is a vibrant and diverse region that now includes over 43,000 electors. Spanning more than 4,700 square kilometres, the electorate encompasses not only the city and suburbs of Maryborough but also a range of satellite communities. These include the beautiful sandy straits coastal villages, rural townships and northern beaches, each contributing to the unique character of the area. As the elected representative for Maryborough, I am deeply committed to advocating for the entire electorate.

Throughout the election campaign, it became clear that in the past many areas outside Maryborough's central township felt overlooked and unheard. Addressing this will be a priority and I will work tirelessly to rebuild trust and ensure every community within the electorate feels represented and valued. Maryborough is a beautiful heritage city; the home of Mary Poppins, the Cistern Chapel amongst many more attributes. It has long been a tourist attraction. Maryborough's boundaries intersect with the neighbouring Hervey Bay electorate, creating shared opportunities and challenges. I extend my congratulations to the newly elected state member for Hervey Bay, David Lee, and look forward to forging a productive partnership with him. Together, we can develop strategies to tackle shared issues and unlock the potential of both electorates. Notably, around 4,500 residents commute daily between Maryborough and Hervey Bay for work, highlighting the association of our communities and economies.

I believe the Queensland government has an important role to play in the everyday lives of Queenslanders. The institutions and services led and run by the state government are of critical importance to the community, particularly the two big services of education and health. I have a strong commitment to education. It is one of the key enablers to take advantage of the opportunities I spoke of before. Maryborough has a proud tradition of excellence in education, both in the public and private sectors, and I am dedicated to upholding and building upon this legacy. Another key priority for me is health services. In my electorate the focal point for health is the Maryborough Hospital. This city deserves improved healthcare services and I will be a strong advocate for the redevelopment of this essential facility. A hospital is a cornerstone of any community and my goal is to ensure that Maryborough has a hospital that meets the needs of our residents and serves as a source of pride for everyone.

Having educated, healthy citizens is important, but having a vibrant economy for them to participate in gives them a higher quality of life. Maryborough's proud history of innovation, particularly in manufacturing, is a major part of its identity. The train manufacturing industry is a shining example of this legacy and I will give my unwavering support for preserving and expanding this vital sector and the jobs it sustains. Employment creation across all industries will remain a central focus of my work. From tourism and retail to agriculture and fishing, I am committed to supporting initiatives that drive economic growth and job opportunities. As the newly elected state member for Maryborough, I am committed to supporting all industries with equal passion and dedication.

One of my immediate priorities is addressing the pressing issue of crime and antisocial behaviour. Maryborough, with its rich history and incredible community, faces daily challenges posed by a small number of individuals. These issues have been well documented in the media and are deeply concerning to residents. It is a fundamental responsibility of the government to ensure our city's CBD is safe, welcoming and vibrant. I am fully committed to tackling this longstanding issue with dedication and urgency, working to restore safety and pride to our community.

Recently, I called a community meeting attended by over 700 concerned residents and business owners regarding the significant impact of antisocial behaviour and crime. Held at the Maryborough City Hall, it was one of the largest community-attended meetings ever seen in the region. This clearly shows the level of concern and the impact on this community, which is having a direct effect on the very fabric of our society. Numerous disturbing stories were shared about how business owners and residents have been impacted by crime and antisocial behaviour. These accounts are deeply personal, raising critical questions about why business owners can no longer keep their doors open to customers. Instead, they are forced to lock their doors due to the unacceptable behaviour and crime they face, as well as the constant fear that impacts their daily lives.

Let me share how crime, particularly youth crime, has impacted two of my constituents, Bev and Syd, a lovely couple in their 80s. In January their home was broken into and their cherished Falcon XR6 was stolen by youth offenders. Although the car was recovered, it had sustained thousands of dollars in damage. In September these young offenders broke into their home again and stole the car and other items once more. This couple now lives in fear, uncertain about what might happen next. As a new government we have a responsibility to implement laws that restore confidence in the community. When offenders are apprehended they must face consequences that prevent them from committing the same crimes repeatedly. It is time to take a stand and protect our communities. We are very proud of our city. Our community is proud and we will not let a few individuals dictate how Maryborough is seen by others.

One only needs to look at a map of my electorate to realise how important the Bruce Highway is. It is how visitors come to our region, it is how our residents move around for work and pleasure. The highway is not as safe as it could be. Maryborough, like other electorates along the Bruce, has experienced tragedy on this road and that needs to stop. I am proud to be part of a party that, at all levels of government, knows the importance of the Bruce Highway to Queensland's economy but, more importantly, to Queensland families. Collaboration with all levels of government is another key focus of mine. Local councils, as the closest level of government to the community, play a vital role in shaping our daily lives. I am committed to working closely with the Fraser Coast Regional Council and its elected representatives to address the needs of our region effectively.

I fully recognise that I could not have succeeded in standing in this chamber on my own. I want to take this moment to recognise and thank my exceptional campaign team. Without their dedication and tireless efforts, I would not be standing here before you today. The spirit and determination shown

by our volunteers speak volumes about their belief not just in me but in the campaign's mission. This was about more than electing one representative; it was about bringing meaningful change to our electorate. Together we have achieved this and we have taken the first step.

I would like to highlight the contributions of some individuals who were at the core of my campaign. First and foremost my campaign manager, John McDonald. John's professionalism, incredible work ethic and unrelenting commitment were pivotal to our success. Words cannot express my appreciation for his efforts. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Robyn and David Kemp, Rolf Light, Tony Williams, Lloyd and Anne Maddern and our regional campaign manager. Each of you played a significant role in this campaign's success and your contributions will not be forgotten. To every single volunteer who contributed, whether through big or small acts, know that you made a difference. I am so proud of what we have accomplished and am honoured to have walked this path with all of you. Thank you to our federal member, Llew O'Brien, for his trust in me; Ben Riley and his team for their support and guidance; and our former deputy leader, shadow ministers and all the other members for visiting and spending time with me in my electorate.


I thank our Premier. He believed in me and encouraged me during this journey, saying, 'You can do it, Johnny! You can do it!' He was right. Of course, I thank the people of the Maryborough electorate for placing their trust in the LNP and me. The work has just begun and I am deeply humbled to be part of the new Crisafulli LNP government.

I also look forward to partnering with my federal counterparts, Llew O'Brien and Keith Pitt. By fostering strong relationships and cooperation between local, state and federal governments, we can achieve the outcomes our community expects and deserves. I take this opportunity to thank all previous members for Maryborough of all political leanings. I have quickly learned that this is an all-consuming job and the contribution of those members over the years is not lost on me.

In closing, I must thank the most important people who supported me throughout this campaign: my wife, Tricia, and our family. Tricia encouraged me, stood by my side and helped me to navigate the inevitable moments of self-doubt. Her unwavering belief in me gave me the strength to push forward. Tricia, thank you and I love you.

I give my unwavering commitment to the people of the Maryborough electorate. I will represent you all equally, with the same passion, dedication and enthusiasm that drove my campaign. Throughout this journey it became clear that in the past many in the Maryborough community felt judged not by the content of their character but by their political beliefs. I assure you that this will stop. I am here to represent the entire community, every corner of the region and every single community member, without exception. I will always be proud of our city and community.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (7.52 pm): I rise to give my address-in-reply speech to the Queensland parliament. It is an absolute honour and pleasure to have been returned to this place by the good people of Hinchinbrook. After the election, when the noise of the campaign had died down, I was able to reflect on not only some of things that happened during the campaign but also some of the reasons I continue to do the work that I do. One day I took the opportunity to sit quietly and think about that. When I returned to this place to be sworn in, I thought to myself, 'What an honour.' This place belongs to the people of Queensland. It is not something that I own on behalf of the seat of Hinchinbrook. The Speaker does not own it and the Premier does not own it. We get to spend some time in this Queensland institution to try to contribute in a positive way to change the lives of and better the outcomes for all Queenslanders. I thought about the great honour that the good people of Hinchinbrook have given to me. Because of the hard work that we have done over the past seven years, they have given me the special privilege of being able to come here to represent them.

What a special place Hinchinbrook is. For those who do not know, the Hinchinbrook electorate stretches from the Bohle River in Townsville all the way up to Silky Oak, Euramo and Tully Heads. It is home to an incredible group of people. The northern beaches of Townsville are quite a melting pot where you will find everyone from ADF staff to health workers, teachers, people who work in the mining industry, entrepreneurial people and business owners.

Heading north, the landscape is spectacular. You get into the dry pineapple country and then the cane starts to take over. Ingham is an absolutely beautiful place that needs representation. It is a special place because it is the place I call home and it is where I grew up. I grew up on a farm in Hawkins Creek that was owned by my grandfather, a migrant Italian. For someone such as me, to be able to stand in this place and represent the people I love is a great honour.

As you head further north into banana country, you will pass through the beautiful town of Cardwell, which is home to another great group of people. Once again, it is a melting pot with everyone from retirees to young families trying to make a go of it. Sometimes people from lower socio-economic backgrounds will move to places such as Cardwell, but they are all aspiring people who want to see the region flourish. You will feel the same vibe as you travel to Tully Heads and Euramo.

Hinchinbrook is an incredible place. If you ask me, it is a patch of paradise that cannot be compared to anywhere else in the world. Situated off the coast is the largest island national park in Australia, Hinchinbrook Island. It is something that we are all very proud of. Whether we are environmentalists or we want to see tourism flourish in the area, we all want to ensure that not only are those parts of Hinchinbrook protected but also we have an opportunity to display them.

During the election campaign I was fortunate enough to stand beside the KAP candidates for Townsville, Thuringowa, Mundingburra and Burdekin. They were fearless in their campaigns. I acknowledge Margie Ryder, who was here today fighting for volunteers despite not being elected. We had Reuben Richardson running for Thuringowa. Michael Pugh was an absolute workhorse during the campaign and a strong advocate for those who want to involve themselves in outdoor activities. Dr Dan Carroll is a paediatric surgeon who was attracted to the KAP for our core values and principles.

That leads me to why I run with the KAP and am proud to do so. I stand here with our leader, the member for Traeger, and the member for Hill, Shane Knuth. They are men of conviction in everything they do in this House. I have been able to watch, learn from and grow with them over the past seven years. I stand with this party because of the core values and principles that we live by every day. While sometimes we might be seen as a bit of a motley crew almost undertaking guerrilla warfare when we approach either side of the House, the fact is that we have latitude because all of our decision-making, the positions we take on policy, our voting history, how we will vote in the future and what we say in the media will always revert to the core values and principles that are our guiding light.

All of the work we did during the election would have been impossible without the strong support of our voter base and our supporter base. I thank Sarah Major, who worked in the campaign office. I acknowledge all of the good people who worked on the election campaign and the staff who work hard on policy. I thank Cathy Holden, who works in my office as a policy adviser. The work that she has done over the past three to four years while working for us, whether as an electorate officer or a policy adviser, has been incredible. I believe all members of this House have good staff. They really are the backbone of many things. It does not matter if you are talking to a shadow minister or a minister, after a meeting I can assure members that it is the staff who are doing a lot of the heavy lifting.

I want to acknowledge previous staff members Michael Sorenk and Joanne Hodgett, who worked tirelessly in my office; and Caitlin Schofield, who is on maternity leave right now with the second baby we have had in the Hinchinbrook electorate office while she has been there—not in the office, but we did warn her about that coming into the end of her pregnancy! To Kate Mason, who has just come on board, and Tahnee Bartolini: thank you very much for your dedication. We had 77 booth workers covering 22 booths on election day. We had two booths during pre-poll. It is gruelling being out there for two weeks in the hot sun. It is interesting, because you get a chance to stand there with the other candidates and their booth workers and their helpers.

I would like to congratulate Ina Pryor, who ran for the Labor Party. She was really up against it. She probably had absolutely no chance of winning that seat but she sat there for two weeks. Ina sat there on her own most of the time, with hardly any help from the party or any of the unions that may have usually supported the Labor Party. She is an absolute workhorse of a lady, and that needs to be acknowledged.

Annette Swaine had pretty much every booth worker in Townsville who was not helping the candidates for Mundingburra, Thuringowa and Townsville for the LNP. Annette ran an amicable campaign herself but there were some things that were done during the campaign from those now in government that do not deserve an accolade. I am the kind of person who is happy to put that aside because we are a group of people right now who want to deliver for Queensland, deliver for our electorates. I always put the people of my electorate before the politics of campaigning, the politics of what happens in this House.

As Queenslanders have voted in a new government, the Crisafulli government, there comes opportunity. There will be some challenges as well but let's hope there are more opportunities than challenges. There are a number of projects in the Hinchinbrook electorate which I will continue to advocate for. I was talking earlier about the good people who live up in Cardwell. When I started in 2017 in the Hinchinbrook electorate the No. 1 problem was the failed Port Hinchinbrook development



just to the south of Cardwell. I can tell you that we made some significant and monumental progress under the previous government. We sorted out the sewage treatment problem. With the help of the Cassowary Coast Regional Council, we sorted out the roads and sewerage. We also sorted out the other land-based problems that came with the failed development. Now our attention turns to the water-based issues.

The previous government made a commitment and put a plan in place that was agreed to by the community for EDQ—Economic Development Queensland—to take on the property in liquidation and work with those stakeholders and also potential buyers to redevelop the site. We would like the incoming government to honour that agreement with EDQ. I call on the government to not desert the people of Port Hinchinbrook and the people of Cardwell. This is the economic boost that they need to move forward.

In Hinchinbrook, we know what the Bruce Highway means to us—like the member for Maryborough, who just spoke before me—because it is the lifeblood of the region. Without the Bruce Highway, we do not get products, stock or visitors to the area but we also do not get our produce out. We do not get the small crops out of there; we do not get sugar cane out of there; and we do not get the beef out of the area as well. The Bruce Highway needs to be flood-proofed. When we say flood-proofed, though, we do not want places like Ingham circumnavigated by a bypass.

In 2017, the bypass of Ingham was a hot topic. That would be a project worth over \$1 billion right now. We understand there is still \$40 million sitting in the coffers to work on that project for planning and securing the corridor. The people of Ingham do not want that. We can save this incoming government and the federal government \$1 billion. Please, continue to work on flood mitigation projects like the Gairloch washaway and the Dallachy Road project in front of Les Blennerhassett's property. He would love the floodwater not coming through his place. Let's continue working on the Bruce Highway. Let's not circumnavigate and kill off our small towns by bypassing them.

The sugar industry is the centre of the Hinchinbrook electorate, and I can tell you right now the sugar industry needs help. The sugar industry has been going through a period of good times lately because the world sugar price has been high but so too have the costs of doing businesses, the input costs. While input costs rose, so did the world price which levelled things out but, once that world price drops again, the sugar industry will need help. I call on the minister for agriculture, the Minister for the Environment and those opposite to look at some of the previous reef regulations that were imposed on the sugar industry because they do need a hand. Reducing the red tape and regulation that burdens the industry and allowing the industry to flourish is what most growers are asking for.

I call Ingham home but my residence is in the northern beaches of Townsville. I am lucky enough to live 400 metres inside the electorate in Burdell. When I talk to residents on a daily basis, they say, 'Nick, we need you to continue to push for road infrastructure in the northern beaches.' Townsville is a growing city centre and Townsville is well on track to be the capital of North Queensland one day. If we are going to grow a city, if we are going to continue to have people move to Townsville, we need the road infrastructure to support that.

I did get an opportunity to meet with the transport minister today and I was able to brief him on the Woolcock Street redevelopment project that is necessary to continue that growth in the northern corridor. It is suspected that, between the Bohle River and Bluewater, we will have about 60,000 people living there within the next 10 years. They are not my figures; they are QPS and other departmental figures. That is a huge population growth. There is no reason it should not grow to that size. It is a beautiful spot—with places like Balgal Beach, Saunders Beach and Bushland Beach, and you always have that afternoon northerly breeze.

We need the road infrastructure. We need to support those who want to build our city, partnering with developers, not treating them like lepers, not treating them like rich moguls who want to take advantage of people. We need to acknowledge that our developers are the people who help build our cities, and in partnership we can do that. We are very interested in a future trunk infrastructure fund, or whatever it will be called by the incoming government, to unlock some of those blocks.

Another thing that I will talk to while I am on my feet today, giving my address-in-reply speech, is the fact that, as a group, as a party, we campaigned on youth crime as the No. 1 topic in North Queensland. It is great that we have seen laws come before this House before Christmas, and we will likely see them passed by tomorrow afternoon. The Making Queensland Safer Laws are a step in the right direction and, like I said in my contribution today, a number of policies that have been adopted started off as policies that the KAP first floated.

There are 40,000 people who signed a petition at the end of last year calling for Castle Law in Queensland. People in Queensland want the right to defend themselves in their home with whatever means necessary. We are hearing too many times about people going into a house with machetes and knives with an intent to hurt—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Member, I caution you in terms of anticipating debate on a bill before the House.

**Mr DAMETTO:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I do take your caution. We will push for Castle Law. It is not part of the legislation before the House but we will continue to fight for that in this Queensland parliament. We also will continue to push hard for programs like relocation sentencing. During the election campaign it was good to hear the opposition adopt in part, like the previous government did, the relocation sentencing policy. We are not all about just locking kids up. Yes, we want them off the street. Yes, we want to make sure that these kids are not out there committing crimes but we want to send kids away to a remote location so that we can give them an opportunity. Queenslanders need opportunity, young people need opportunity. We will continue to push for that policy, although it is not part of the regulation or legislation being debated at the moment in this House.

While I am on my feet, I do want to thank my family. My family has supported me over the last seven years. I always remember coming home after first being asked to run for the Katter's Australian Party by the Hon. Bob Katter, whom, I must say, we should also congratulate in this House. I think we should move a motion without notice about this, member for Traeger. Mr Katter has actually served in the Queensland and federal parliaments now for 50 years. It was wonderful just recently to be invited all the way down to Canberra by the Speaker of the House, Milton Dick, to congratulate Mr Katter and have a morning tea with both sides of the House celebrating that great achievement.

I remember being asked by Mr Katter to run for the seat of Hinchinbrook. At first I said no. I then met the member for Traeger and I could not say no. I once again reflect on why I said yes. We all sit around talking about the things we want to change in the state and the things we want to fix. New members and returning members probably have the same train of thought. If you are not willing to put your hand up to be part of the democratic process in this House then you probably do not get an opportunity to say things are wrong and whinge about them. That is the reason I ran for the seat of Hinchinbrook.


I have worked tirelessly to make a difference since 2017. That has been with the support of my beautiful wife, Alicia. She is watching the link tonight so hopefully it is working. I thank my son, Deekin Lino Dametto. He is graduating from UQ this Friday—Friday the 13th—with a degree in advanced science, majoring in chemistry. I am so proud of him. He is the first person in my family to graduate from university. I want to thank my father and my mother for being by my side the whole time. I thank my grandmother Rose Dametto, who is in hospital now and is probably not going to see out the end of the month. She is the person who has instilled in me my Christian values. I will not say any more about that.

There is a moment for me that happens every election campaign and it is the hour while I am driving from Ingham back to Townsville after trying to visit the 22 booths in my electorate. I do not get to all of them. In that hour I am driving from Ingham to Townsville I usually make a phone call to the member for Hill, because he always picks up my phone calls. It is a time for reflection. I think about all the things I have done in the last four years, or the three years that we used to have. I think about all the things that have happened in the whirlwind which is the election campaign. It is literally an hour when I think to myself that there is nothing more I can do.

Every day I walk into this House I pray and hand over to God and acknowledge God. I am proud that we still say the Lord's Prayer in this House. I hope it is something that this House continues to hold dear because the KAP is built on Christian values. We acknowledge God in this place. We acknowledge the reason we are here. We acknowledge the work that he wants us to do.

I am so glad and proud that I can continue to do this work. As I said earlier, we are in this place for just a moment. We do not own our position. I do not own the seat of Hinchinbrook. I never use the word 'I'; I always use the word 'we'. I hope we continue to do good work together. I acknowledge the members of the House and look forward to working with everyone in the 58th Parliament.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Before I call the next member, I remind the House of the conventions that apply in the House for the member's first speech. I call the member for Redcliffe.

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (8.12 pm): I rise tonight, both humbled and honoured, to deliver my first speech as the newly elected member for Redcliffe in the 58th Parliament of Queensland. I am the first female Liberal National member to represent Redcliffe—my heartland, my home; a community

I was born into and have served since I was 16 years old. I never sought leadership. It has always found me since I was vice-captain of Redcliffe State High School and elected as the first deputy youth mayor of the Redcliffe City Youth Council in 1986.

It is no secret that I have run six times for this privilege to stand here before you tonight. I have had members of my own party tell me to move out of Redcliffe—that I would never win it. To them I say: it was never about being a politician. It has been, and always will be, about representing a community that I was born into and have served my entire life. It is Redcliffe or nowhere. To them I say: never give up. To every graduating Redcliffe and Queensland student and young Wade, who is 11 and is here tonight, I say: never give up on your dreams. Persevere. Work hard. When you fail, get back up again. Surround yourself with the right people and you can achieve anything.

I was born at Redcliffe Hospital in the year man landed on the moon. I am testing your history knowledge! I was schooled at Humpybong State School, one of Queensland's oldest primary schools, when we used to sing *God Save the Queen* at assembly and drink warm milk for morning tea. Humpybong will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2026 and I am so grateful to still be closely connected to their community as a representative on their school council. I give a shout-out to all the hardworking members of the Humpybong P&C.

I grew up on the Redcliffe Peninsula: swimming at Suttons Beach, fishing unsuccessfully off the Woody Point jetty, climbing the Moreton Bay fig trees entwined in the red cliffs—our namesake—of Queens Beach Scarborough, riding my pushbike around the perimeter of the peninsula, walking Scott's Point at sunrise to see dolphins breeding, rollerskating at the Redcliffe Rollerdrome and dive-bombing off the Redcliffe Jetty—please don't tell my mum! My first job was at Redcliffe Red Rooster in Sutton Street, now a car park. My first job as a registered nurse was at Redcliffe Hospital. Two of my four children were born at Redcliffe Hospital. Now my youngest daughter, who is also a registered nurse, works at Redcliffe Hospital.

As a second-generation Redcliffian, Redcliffe is in my DNA. My mother, Eunice Allgood, was a foundational student at Redcliffe State High School, heralding from a dairy farm in Kingaroy. On my dad's side, my grandfather came to Redcliffe from Toowoomba in his retirement with his business Turnbull Constructions, now in its fourth generation—and, no, I am no relation to Malcolm. I am married to Redcliffe.

Redcliffe was almost the capital of Queensland. It is known as the very first English settlement city of this state of Queensland. It is the most beautiful place to live, work and play. Thank you to the Gubbi Gubbi people who share this land with us today. This year we celebrated our bicentenary as a settlement city. I want to thank History Redcliffe for their week of celebrations in September to commemorate. I honour late councillor James Houghton for his love of Redcliffe history and his service.

As a peninsula, we are almost an island. We are surrounded on three sides by the beautiful Moreton Bay. I like to call us a geographical hug. Everyone knows the magic of Redcliffe. As you come across the Houghton bridge from Brisbane to Redcliffe there is that overwhelming sense of 'this is home'—a let-down reflex of being disconnected from the hustle and bustle of Brisbane, with the beauty of Moreton Bay greeting you and stunning sunrises and sunsets our everyday delight.

The Redcliffe electorate also boasts the magnificent Moreton Island—the third largest sand island in the world and the highest sand dunes in the Southern Hemisphere. Moreton Island has long been a family favourite holiday destination—camping, glamping, swimming with dolphins, four-wheel driving, sand tobogganing and many a drink sipped at Tangalooma resort.

As a teenager I learned that service above self was the key to happiness by attending Redcliffe Uniting Church Youth Group. I served here and also overseas. I left the shores of Australia to join Youth With A Mission, affectionately known as YWAM. I served as an international volunteer for 5½ years in Europe, Africa and Asia, learning to speak both French and Mandarin. It was a sliding doors moment in Mali, West Africa, that led to my career in nursing.

In a remote village I was reading a book under a tree when a teenage Malian girl came up pointing at me and pointing at the book. She wondered how, as a woman, I could read. Sadly for her, girls are not educated in Mali. We could not even speak to each other as she spoke only Bambara, her tribal language, and had not learned French like her male peers. I was only 18. She was only 16, already married with two children to a man 20 years her senior. It is a moment that will stay with me forever. I realised the precious privilege it is to be born in Australia and given a 12-year education whether I appreciated it or not. I could have been her: born in Mali in an impoverished village with no education, married off at a young age and with no hope of a future to pursue my dreams.

It was there and then that I chose to dedicate my life to God and humanity. I was blessed to be a blessing. In YWAM Mali I saw registered nurses teaching women to give birth safely, educating them on nutrition and health. As Florence Nightingale said, nursing called me. As a registered nurse for over three decades, I believe the lessons learned caring for those who are vulnerable, in pain, living with a disability or dementia, seniors who want to stay in their own home, those at the end of life, and listening and advocating are the skills I now bring to represent the people of Redcliffe.

As a palliative care nurse, fighting for more funding for those at end of life was the pathway that took me into politics. As the vice-president of Palliative Care Queensland, fighting for funding for a children's hospice, meeting with grieving families and meeting with politicians red, blue, green and in between to garner a bipartisan commitment to build Hummingbird House led me to first put my hand up for the LNP in the Redcliffe 2014 by-election. I knew I would not win, but as a nurse I ran to bring political healing for the people of Redcliffe and for the LNP.

I pay tribute to the Liberal and National members for Redcliffe before me: James Houghton Senior, Terry White OAM and Terry Rogers. Terry White has been a pillar of support, launching most of my previous campaigns. To him and Rhonda, thank you. Thank you for believing in me, for loving Redcliffe as much as I do and for your wisdom and friendship. I also want to pay tribute to the Hon. John Hodges, the late member for Petrie, who passed away just a month ago. John and his beautiful wife Margaret have made the Redcliffe peninsula their home for past 60 years. John was a good friend and supporter. He served in the Fraser government as immigration minister and came into federal parliament with John Howard in the class of 1974. It was a privilege to care for him and his beautiful wife Margaret, who succeeds him, in their senior years to keep them in their beloved own home. I am also proud to say that an LNP government delivered Queensland's first children's hospice Hummingbird House with both federal and state commitments under the leadership of the then prime minister Tony Abbott and Lawrence Springborg as our state health minister.

Redcliffe is an incredible community with a higher than state average number of community organisations and volunteers. I am just one of many. I welcome Minister Leahy's inquiry into volunteering in Queensland. Winston Churchill famously said, 'We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.' As a community champion, I have invested in Redcliffe over the decades as chair of Redcliffe Crime Stoppers; chair of Redcliffe Relay for Life; chair of the Redcliffe Special School Chaplaincy Committee; co-founder and chair of the Moreton Bay Dementia Alliance; board member of ROPE Inc; chair of the Redcliffe Uniting Church Community Hub; community member for Moreton Bay Says NO to Violence; and a former member of the Rotary Club of Redcliffe Sunrise. I am also a very proud Glass House foundation member, number 264, of the mighty, mighty Dolphins. Phins up!

As a nurse educator tutoring at both QUT and ACU in the School of Nursing, Paramedicine and Midwifery, I have been committed to seeing the next generation of nurses be the very best they can be. I would like to see more done to support my nursing, allied health and medical colleagues to remain in their profession. During COVID our health heroes left in droves, burned out by a failing system that did not support them. I am proud to be part of an LNP government that has a plan to heal our health crisis and to put doctors and nurses back in charge. I also look forward to seeing the Redcliffe Hospital expansion plan, with an additional 204 beds and 2,500 jobs, delivered.

As a mother supporting a son living with bipolar, I have been fighting for a dedicated mental health unit at Redcliffe Hospital to support him and the hundreds like him who need this type of care where they live. Thank you to the thousands who signed my petition to see this delivered. I will be tabling this petition in the new year.

After I lost the 2020 state election I started a home hospice private nursing agency with the aim of providing 24/7 in-home care for those who want to die in the comfort of their own home. This business has grown and flourished and I still employ a team of 15 nurses. Today I want to acknowledge my colleagues Kathy and Kathleen who manage the day-to-day affairs of this service and my team of nurses who go over and above every single day. To my clients, who have taught me to cherish life with every breath, thank you for entrusting me and my nursing team into your hearts and homes. To Professor Phillip Good, who has been a professional mentor in palliative care, thank you for your years of friendship and sage council.

As a business owner, I understand intimately the challenges faced by the 4,500 small business owners in Redcliffe. We are in a unique position to deliver services, boutique products, create jobs and support families. Thank you to Ocean Network, Mums in Business Moreton Bay and the Redcliffe

Peninsula Chamber of Commerce for all you do to support local businesses and for hosting this year's inaugural Redcliffe Business Awards. We are humbled and thrilled to win the 2024 Small/Home-Based Business Award.

Today I stand for the people of Redcliffe like the Beaumonts, who tragically lost their son Angus in 2020 to an act of murder by teens who were out on bail; for people like Mary, who told me while doorknocking that she locks her doors and windows at 4 pm every single day for fear of being broken into and no longer goes to the local shopping centre for fear of being stabbed like Vyleen White; for Alan, who was left on a footpath for four hours waiting for an ambulance after having a stroke; and for Gerry, who as an apprentice is sleeping in his ute at Woody Point beach because he cannot afford rent or a house. We all want safer communities, and I look forward to seeing the Making Queensland Safer laws passed before Christmas to put victims' rights before perpetrators' and for gold standard early intervention so that services like Redcliffe Area Youth Space and Redcliffe PCYC can continue delivering support for our at-risk and disadvantaged teens through education and wraparound services, diverting them out of a life of crime.

There are a tidal wave of thank-yous. As everyone in this chamber knows, it takes an army of supporters to help us win an election. First I thank my family. My mum, Eunice, taught me the value of hard work. As a single mum she worked three jobs to raise my sister, Tanya, and me. I thank my stepdad, Keith, for being my go-to fixer of absolutely everything—I think I locked my keys in the car three times in the campaign; my four adult children, Josiah, Matthew, Grace and Amy, and my '12 out of 10' sons-in-law, Kenny and Jai: thank you for supporting me even when it meant sacrificing me. I am so proud of the young adults and nation builders you have each become. Thank you for keeping me grounded and humble, for budgeting advice and for reminding me how to have fun. My week is just not right if we do not have Sunday night family dinner together.

To the federal member for Petrie, Luke Howarth, who has been a great friend and mentor: thank you for your wisdom and guidance and for giving me the eye of the tiger. To our Premier, David Crisafulli: thank you for encouraging me to run just one more time. You made Redcliffe your patron seat. You put your feet where your mouth is and you came to Redcliffe regularly, showing your commitment and integrity.

To LNP secretariat Ben Riley, Janet Wishart and my amazing campaign team, Jill, Geoff, Jake, Nichol, Michael, Wayne, Ryan and Fiona: thank you for absolutely everything. No words do justice. I mention my previous campaign managers, Phillip Pease, who is watching from Melbourne, Brent Marshall and Geoff Godfrey. Brent, I hope you are watching from heaven. You would have loved to be here for this day. I miss you dearly—taken too young but never forgotten. May you rest in peace. Special thanks to Geoff, who, aged 84, has done three campaigns with me. Anyone who has been to Redcliffe has met Geoff Godfrey. He was more devoted than anyone to see us win.


To Jake Scott, whom I first met in 2014 in the Redcliffe by-election: you were just 12 years old and school captain of Humpybong. You have remained loyal and faithful, despite being vilified and bullied in the 2020 state campaign. If political candidates or members needed perfect volunteers, we would have none. We all deserve a second chance, no matter what we have said or done. You are forgiven. I am so inspired to see that you have remained committed to the LNP, despite politics and the media being brutal to you. We need more young people like you who will learn from and rise above their mistakes, to remain engaged and steadfast.

To all the members of the Redcliffe SEC—volunteers like Gary and Sue Wilson, who set up at market stalls every single Sunday—and to each and every one who donated, letterboxed, roadsided, doorknocked and phone polled—you all know who you are: thank you. To Wade, Ryan Nunn and Jordan, who are in the audience tonight: thank you for all your support. Today is testament to your hard work and your commitment to the values of the LNP and our shared vision to see generational LNP government in Queensland.

To my heavenly Father and dedicated prayer team, Neil, Alison, Marion, Kay, Jan, Jane and the whole Lean family, Fiona and members of Redcliffe Uniting and Citipointe churches: thank you for your treasured prayers, love and support. God is able to do exceedingly above all that we ask, think or imagine.

Lastly but most importantly to the people of Redcliffe, who have entrusted me with their vote: thank you for voting for hope over fear. You voted for safety where you live, a place to call home, health services when you need them, respect for your money and a government that works for you. Thank you for trusting me with your issues, heartaches, challenges, ambitions, hopes and aspirations at your

doors, on the phone, at the markets, at mobile offices and at cafes. I carry this incredible privilege with immense responsibility, open hands and an open heart. I pledge to work every day to serve and represent you, so help me God.

 **Mr de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (8.33 pm): I rise to reply to Her Excellency's speech opening the 58th session of the Queensland parliament. At the outset I would like to congratulate every member who has been elected to this House. I also acknowledge the original custodians of this land and their careful management of the lands that we call home. It is an honour to serve the community of Springwood in this parliament. I thank every constituent who has entrusted me with this great honour for a fourth time. As your member for Springwood I commit to work hard every day on your behalf. I also acknowledge that there are those who chose to support an alternative party, and I commit to work hard on your behalf too and to earn your trust and your support. That also means working even harder with our community to ensure we are doing what matters for you. That means making sure that our community gets a fair go from this government.

I acknowledge that I serve in this parliament as a Labor MP and in doing so I thank our local Labor team, including the Springwood Labor president, the secretary, every member and supporter plus those incredible life members. I want to thank as well the leaders and members of the trade union movement. I am proud to be a member of Queensland unions, and I know that under this LNP government union members and their organisations are already targets. I will fight to defend the rights of working people to organise and to campaign for better lives for themselves, their workmates, their families and their communities.

At the start of this parliament I want to especially acknowledge every single volunteer and donor who worked so hard to stop the LNP taking our community backwards. I acknowledge as well, of course, my family and friends for their support. Finally, I acknowledge Steven Miles, our leader, who assumed a very challenging task. Despite the final result statewide, he has done us all proud. I know that he will ensure the interests of Queenslanders are defended every day.

This is the fourth time that I have had the opportunity to contribute to such a debate. Since first running for office in the 2015 campaign, the Springwood team has been known as a team that fights hard but is disciplined. We have always set out a positive vision for our community. We have always been focused on building a better community. That is why in the time since first being elected we have upgraded every local school, from Rochedale South to Mount Cotton. We have delivered more teachers and teacher aides. It is why in that time every single sporting club in the community has better facilities—from the Underwood Park Netball Association in the north to the Logan Lightning Football Club in the south. It is why our roads are better. It is why commuters can see the significant progress on the biggest local infrastructure project ever—the M1 expansion and busway extension, which is nearing completion of its latest stage.

It is why we have built better local health services and two satellite hospitals, undertaken major upgrades to both hospitals and rebuilt the services that the LNP when last in office so savagely cut. Our community will never forget that the now Premier Crisafulli sat around the cabinet table and helped sack those health workers. They will never forget that he could have taken the opportunity upon assuming office and becoming the Premier to apologise, but there has been no apology on any sitting day since. Finally, because we fought hard and because we have been disciplined in our community, we delivered more frontline services, like the outstanding new Mount Cotton Road fire station and the new ambulance station soon to be delivered at Springwood—unless the LNP cut it.

I went to this election with an ongoing commitment to better local jobs, and I reflect on our track record—where Labor in government reshored or onshored manufacturing of everything from trains to batteries, where we maximised every dollar of taxpayers' money through smart procurement policy and where we made sure taxpayers' hard-earned money delivered good jobs in every sector, from transport to information technology to construction. We have a track record that meant there were more than 650,000 more Queenslanders in work on election day in 2024 than when we came to office in 2015. What have we seen from this LNP government in just their first weeks in office? They sacked dedicated and hardworking public servants after promising not to do so.

At the heart of what motivates me in this place and the community I represent is a fairer society. In government, Labor put Queensland in a position to lead the nation on climate action and a transition to clean and affordable renewables. In government, Labor enabled unions to deliver working people nation-leading standards. In government, Labor put thousands of dollars into every household when they were faced with post-COVID inflation impacts. In government, Labor made it law that treating drug use was a health issue and we made pill testing legal to especially save young lives. In government,

Labor made it law that Queenslanders can love who they want to love, live how they want to live and be who they want to be. In government, Labor legalised a woman's right to choose and expanded access to safe abortion care. In government, Labor gave people at the end of their lives the right to die with dignity.

After just four weeks in office, though, the LNP have already started their campaign of cuts, and we heard their recipe for those cuts in the speech that opened this parliament, a recipe built on a series of excuses, a recipe for taking Queensland backwards. They have already cut our pathway to real action on climate change. They have scrapped the state's commitments to decarbonisation. They have cut rights that ensure Queensland workers earn a decent, secure wage, and that they are able to return home safe to their families each night. They have threatened to cut free flu vaccinations that protect Queenslanders during the winter season. They have threatened to cut pill testing which is recommended by experts and is proven to save lives. We already saw them cut at least 650 new homes on the Gold Coast, this from a new government that has literally just told us that Queensland needs more housing supply.

We know what the LNP track record in government is. They cut services, they cut projects, especially those that made an immense difference to the lives of Queenslanders—

**Mr Mander:** You are very, very sad.

**Mr de BRENNI:** They sacked workers; they sacked 14,000 of them. I take the interjection from the member for Everton. He was responsible for sacking those 14,000 workers and he was part of the team that is now committed, as they were then, to asset sales, and they have already outlined their recipe for more privatisation.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr de BRENNI:** They do not like it. Queenslanders know it.

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Member for Theodore!

**Mr de BRENNI:** The electors of Springwood know it. They have a plan to privatise more in this state.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr JKELLY:** Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The level of interjection is making it very difficult for me to hear the member on his feet, and I ask for your guidance in relation to that.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is no point of order.

**Mr Whiting:** It is a point of order! You hear a point of order in silence!

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bancroft, resume your seat.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, there is no point of order. The member took the interjection and there was cross-chamber—

**Mr Whiting** interjected.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members! Member for Bancroft, you are warned. You did not respect the chair. Member for Everton, the member took the interjection so I allowed the debate.

**Mr de BRENNI:** I took the interjection because the member for Everton was responsible for cutting public housing supply in office, and now in government they have cut 650 new homes on the Gold Coast. They were responsible for sacking 14,000 public servants, and we know they were committed to asset sales, and they have already outlined their plan for more privatisation. They said that they had listened to Queenslanders, but did they really? I wanted to ask the community that I represent their thoughts about the LNP's first moves—

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr Smith** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera! Member for Bundaberg!

**Mr de BRENNI:** I conducted a survey where I asked them simple questions. Firstly, I asked the electors of Springwood—

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera, I just cautioned you. You are warned.

**Mr de BRENNI:** I asked the electors of Springwood: should pill testing continue as a service? In a resounding response, 90 per cent of the community believe that pill testing should continue as a service in Queensland, and the move to cut pill testing has been warned against by the Australian Medical Association. They are the experts.

**Ms Fentiman:** They are doctors.

**Mr de BRENNI:** I take the interjection from the member for Waterford. They are doctors. The LNP did not listen to the experts as they said they would. They did not even listen to Queenslanders. Instead, they reverted to the same old tactics, the same old playbook, and cut. We know they will end that service in early 2025.

Question 2 was: Do you agree with the LNP assertion that Queenslanders are somehow so confused about satellite hospitals that they need to be renamed? Instead of investing taxpayer dollars into more nurses, doctors or ambos, those opposite have decided to change the name of our satellite hospitals. In another resounding response, 91 per cent of the community said they are not confused by satellite hospitals and they do not need to be renamed. They said what the community needs is more of them, and even with their undeniable success, the LNP has committed to build no more of them. In fact, one local felt so strongly she emailed me and said, 'Instead of the LNP wasting money on a rename, let's put the money to good use and give it to the satellite hospitals for the items that they need.' This is a government that said they would respect the money of Queenslanders and listen to them, yet these results show that they have not listened and that they do not respect the money of Queenslanders.

In contrast, we showed our community just how good a Labor government can be. When it came to better health care, we committed to employ an additional 500 ambos each year for the next four years, we committed to deliver 12,000 more health workers than the LNP, we committed another satellite hospital and GP clinics, and we committed major upgrades to both Logan and Redlands hospitals.

When it came to help with the cost of living, we committed a publicly owned energy retailer, we committed intervention in the fuel market to make petrol and diesel cheaper, and permanent 50-cent fares that have put thousands of dollars back into the pockets of locals.

In the Governor's address, we heard about what the LNP's actual priorities are. Their only plan for the economy, it seems, is to remove regulations that industry and consumers have worked so hard to establish, an existing economy that saw the strongest jobs growth in the nation. The LNP describe regulation as red tape. Most of what they are getting ready to cut are in fact consumer protections. They have announced the privatisation of the energy system. Energy storage is the most crucial element of the system, and the LNP chose that to be its privatisation priority. It is, in fact, the largest privatisation plan in Queensland history, and it is no different to previous LNP governments. This is the LNP's DNA.

In the community that I have the honour of representing, we committed more upgrades to sporting clubs like Springwood Pumas and Logan Thunder Basketball. We made big investments in local schools like Rochedale, Shailer and Springwood High, Kimberley Park; a performing arts and sports centre, plus a new high school for Mount Cotton; funding certainty for our local community centre; and fixes for our local roads.

Granted, the LNP also made some commitments to the local community I represent. They committed to upgrades to our local sporting clubs, including a field upgrade at Slacks Creek Rugby League Club, and they announced 50 per cent of the project funding for Logan Thunder Basketball. They committed to delivering some of the necessary funding to the Logan East Community Neighbourhood Association—just some of it—to support vital work through their Community Connect program. They promised to fix parking issues at Underwood Park in conjunction with the council. The LNP promised to work with the Kimberley Park State School P&C to get them an outside school hours care building.

If the LNP in government are serious about delivering on the statements in the Governor's address, statements like being a government of accountability, ensuring that every child and young person has the tools and opportunities for a bright future, cooperating with local governments that will support the delivery of community infrastructure and improving the lives of First Nations people, then they will deliver on the commitments that they made.



They took office, so it is now their responsibility. That is the outcome of the election. Granted, it is also important to recognise the outcome of the election as an opposition—that we listen to the message sent to us by Queenslanders. We are listening and understand that we can and will do better. The LNP made those commitments in Springwood and they made lofty commitments right around the state—commitments that I and all members on this side of the House will hold them to.


I will also hold this LNP government to account for its dodgy decisions—what the LNP is already proving to be all about: more for those opposite so that they can do less for Queenslanders. We have seen this in just the first two sitting weeks of the 58th Parliament. They have rammed bills through this House. They have truncated the committee process so that Queenslanders do not have the chance to have the say they deserve, and they think it is funny. They think it is funny that they have trashed parliamentary democracy. Those opposite should be ashamed of themselves. They have amended sessional orders so they can run off to a Christmas party rather than consider bills in detail. They are so scared of having to vote to protect women's reproductive rights that they have removed the right of all parliamentarians to even discuss it. In question time, day after day—one of the most important aspects of this parliament which holds government to account—they could not even answer honestly the most basic of questions, particularly those about cuts to health.

We know that they will do the same when it comes to putting cash into their pockets. They have already talked about how they will allow developers who were previously banned from making political donations to line the pockets of the LNP. At the same time, we know that the LNP have form when it comes to giving nothing to Queenslanders when their bills go up. Who could forget that the LNP is the only government on record anywhere that I can find, in Australia or internationally, that literally cut their own cost-of-living rebate.

All we have seen in the last month is excuse after excuse. It is the same old playbook from the same old team and we will see more of it. They will say, 'Oh, we found something that was unexpected. That is why we will have to cut'—insert election promise here. Then they will say, 'Oh, we found this. That is why we have to cut jobs in'—insert occupational group here, probably in health. Then they will say, 'Oh, we did not know that so we will have to sell off'—insert this publicly owned asset here. In fact, we are seeing them roll out excuses for literally everything. They promised to treat the people who live in this great state with respect, but I cannot see them doing that right now. It was supposed to be the LNP's 100-day plan; it actually just looks like 100 days of excuses for their next big round of cuts and privatisation.

I know that my job is to fight every day to do what matters for our community and to ensure people get a fair go from this government. I take this opportunity to give this solemn commitment to the community that I represent: I will work hard on your behalf every day to ensure our community continues to be a better place to live, to work and to raise a family—a community where people know each other and a community where people care for each other, a community that believes that we all do better when the most vulnerable among us do well too, a community that we can all be proud of.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Before I call the next member, I would like to recognise that in the gallery tonight we have the federal member for Fadden, Cameron Caldwell. The next speech is the member for Burleigh's first speech and I ask that we give it the respect that it deserves.

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (8.53 pm): Surely there are few honours as great as rising in this place to represent one's community. To do so on this first occasion is, of course, humbling and yet I am overcome with a keen sense of anticipation, knowing that there is work to be done. For me, politics has always been about the art of the possible and community service the fulfilment of potential. This parliament—a gift of our Western traditions and forebears—is the nexus between the two. It is a place of debate and a place of decision. It is where matters are settled and the government is stirred to action.

I intend to use my time in this place constructively, faithfully representing the community of Burleigh while holding fast to the values learned from my family, earned by experience and reinforced through a career of community service. Above all, I hope to repay a debt of gratitude and honour the opportunities Queensland gave me: a two-time migrant who arrived on the Gold Coast to chase a better future. My journey here was not straightforward and relied on my parents and grandparents taking extraordinary leaps of faith. To explain my values and share my story, I need to share some of theirs. Let me begin with my grandfather.

Towards the end of the Second World War, my grandfather was a young boy living in a rural town in southern Sicily. Liberation was at hand, but the moment was chaotic and desperate. One day my grandfather, Francesco Bellavia, set off on foot with his father and others to the provincial capital of Agrigento. They carried eggs they hoped to trade with the Americans. Along the way they were beset

by bandits who wanted their goods and their lives. Shots were fired and, in the panic, everyone ran towards the safety of home—everyone but my grandfather. Despite the danger and the uncertainty, he ran towards Agrigento and the opportunity to provide for his family. He made the trade and bravely returned home with those provisions.

There is much more I could share about his courage and love of family but, suffice it to say, he took every opportunity to work, and when there was no work he created his own opportunity. In time, that saw him recruited to work in the mines of South Africa. Beginning without a skerrick of English and little education, he worked for five years to send money back home. He returned to Sicily to marry my grandmother, Antonia, before she, too, pregnant with my mother, made the arduous journey to South Africa to help build a new life. I was born in Boksburg, South Africa to my parents, Hermann and Anna. It was a turbulent time in that country, but both my parents moved mountains to provide a better future for me and my brother, Frank. They took risks by starting businesses in unfamiliar industries, putting their little amount of capital on the line.

When times were lean they made deep personal sacrifices but always, always kept going. Enterprise for them was never for its own sake. Our family unit was their project, and in 1994 they made the decision to walk away from what they had built and start again for the sake of their children. We arrived in Auckland, New Zealand in the middle of a rainy night. There was no-one waiting for us and everything felt alien. The closest I have ever come to describing that period is to say that it felt like experiencing a small death only to find a new life. With no social security net my parents would, yet again, take responsibility for our family by putting everything on the line to start yet another business.

My father saw a gap in the market and, with no engineering background whatsoever, he designed, developed and manufactured an underfloor heating system. At first it was just him, a trailer and the brochures he printed on his ink jet printer. Mum handled the books and administration and my brother and I helped by packing boxes, spooling cable by running up and down our driveway and, at times, even with installations. The smell of drying concrete, sawdust and wet clay on those countless building sites will be with me forever. I count myself lucky to have seen the dignity of hard physical work. I also saw the other side of the construction industry: the power imbalance between large builders and small contractors all too often used as cheap lines of credit; regulations that put small businesses perpetually on the back foot; and rent-seekers who claimed to speak for industries but do not speak for those with the most on the line. Even as a child I felt the injustice of it all, and here, in this place, I will do something about it—to help those mums and dads providing for their kids, for the young tradies going out on their own and, for goodness sake, to help ease the pressure on home prices.

Looking back, only now do I realise how hard it must have been for any own parents to break new ground and juggle so much. For years we walked on bare concrete in a home with no paint on the walls and where the TV stood on milk crates so that my parents could balance the family budget and focus on trying to get ahead. Their sacrifices paid off, their businesses grew and eventually they began exporting enough product to Australia to justify another great leap of faith.

In 2001 our family arrived on the Gold Coast. Like so many before, it was where we holidayed but ultimately where we wanted to live. My parents knew it was a place with excellent schools and on the doorstep of a much larger economy which could offer my brother and me so much more. I started year 11 at Somerset College where I learnt Italian and then quickly turned my mind to university and my own career. While studying IT was my goal, I had to get there under my own steam. In those days FEE-HELP did not exist. Modelling the example of my parents, I knew that hard work could overcome almost any obstacle and I set out about securing a scholarship. Not only did I secure that scholarship, but so did a formidable young woman, Melissa, who would later become my wife.

Education changed my life and I believe in firmly giving parents choice and giving all children access to the best facilities to reach their potential no matter their circumstances. While I graduated with degrees in IT and commerce and had plans to pursue a career in IT, I could not escape my roots and so I joined my parents in that family business. In that crucible I experienced both the joys of success and weathered times of deep disappointment. It was an education I could never have received from a textbook.

It was in that season I begin to appreciate the impact of government decisions on the economy and how the economy, in turn, impacted families just like ours. In the early 2000s Australia felt safe, confident and relaxed and I felt no doubt that the Howard government would be returned. Election night in 2007 came as a personal reckoning. I learned democracy was not a spectator sport; it demanded full participation and nothing could be taken for granted. Just days later I joined the then Liberal Party and was hooked. Politics was the answer to the question I was reaching for my whole life. The rest, as they

say, is history. With my parents' blessing I left the family business and accepted a position with then Moncrieff MP Steven Ciobo. I volunteered where there was a need, ran campaigns and finally rose to become the Young LNP president.

Shortly after the 2012 election I was ready for a new challenge and accepted a role with the City of Gold Coast in a community engagement position and later as a media adviser. It was a privilege to provide advice but I was eager to draw on my experiences and find ways of serving my city directly. To speak up on behalf of small and family businesses, I was appointed to the CCIQ policy committee for the Gold Coast. There I championed the reduction of red tape and fought for our fair share of infrastructure. To keep our family safe in our first home, I led efforts to expand Neighbourhood Watch into our area and worked with some incredible people to help found Gold Coast District Neighbourhood Watch Incorporated.

My own leap of faith came not at all and then all at once. In 2015 with a mortgage and two very young children, I resigned from council so that I could attempt to become a councillor myself. There were things that I wanted to fix, things I wanted for my community and, as I had learned, I could not achieve any of that as a spectator. It was an extraordinary risk to take on a 25-year incumbent and I was hoping to be the youngest ever councillor elected on the modern Gold Coast city council. For seven months I walked the streets with my friends and volunteers. As fate would have it, on two occasions our new Premier even lent a hand distributing flyers. That campaign left me an utterly changed man and up-ended some of my youthful political sensibilities. I had started that journey sharing my vision, but I quickly found that the best ideas were found at the doors. I learned the role of representation is not to remake a community, but to speak up for it, champion it, fight for it and enliven its aspirations. That means listening more than speaking and then doing what you say.

Serving as the division 11 councillor was an incredible honour and so was my re-election in 2020. I did not agree with every decision of council, but I always respected my colleagues and their role sharing the responsibility. Together, we achieved great things and I hope the Gold Coast was left a better place for my time at council.

While local government and state government are notionally separate, in truth they are pretty tightly coupled and co-dependent. From the inside of council I saw a bad state government missing opportunities to deliver outcomes by hand-picking its stakeholders and ignoring those most invested in the Gold Coast: locals. I found it cruel and enraging, and it was not just me. The community, too, could sense something was broken and that they were paying the price. They were raising it with me all the time. In Burleigh, much of which I represented as a local councillor, frustration reached boiling point on the issues of policing, housing and the environment. The community wanted change, but I knew it could not be taken for granted. I would need to make change happen. In October 2023 I was preselected by the LNP to succeed retiring MP Michael Hart, whom I consider a great friend and a champion for the southern Gold Coast, as is his wife, Sally.

I retired from council and embarked on a mission to knock on every single door to hear from locals about their priorities. It was gruelling but joyous. The blisters and the sunburns were badges of honour. I heard from those in the pits of despair and the evergreen optimists. Every story, every person left an impression on me. They painted a picture of an ambitious, protective community with a deep connection to their natural areas, a profound love of family and a desire to knit together a recognisable community in the face of population growth. My mind and my heart were shaped by thousands of conversations, and I want the community to know that I will muster every ounce of strength and draw on all of my experience to represent them.

My foremost priority will be delivering on our commitment to establish a permanent physical police presence in Burleigh to deal with antisocial behaviour in the daytime and prevent night-time violence that puts too many lives at risk. I want to thank the Premier for visiting Burleigh to understand these issues and also the Minister for Police and the Treasurer for supporting a commitment to action that meets locals' expectations.

I also intend to reclaim the conservative tradition of conserving and caring for our environment. Locally, that means working with the Minister for the Environment to restore the Burleigh Head National Park and the nearby conservation areas and planning for the future of Tallebudgera Creek. These are sacral places and at times the upkeep has been disgraceful. I am proud that we are committed to supercharging the work of volunteers and to delivering a wildlife bridge over the busy Gold Coast Highway.

We are amid a housing crisis. Pensioners have been pushed to breaking point, families have been torn apart chasing affordable rents and young people have all but abandoned the Australian dream. The former government abandoned Burleigh when it walked away from the amendments to the Gold Coast planning scheme and exacerbated the misery of good people by holding out false hope.

The partnership with local government must be reset to deliver sorely needed housing. However, there must be another partnership and that is with the community, which is best placed to guide outcomes. I am grateful to the Deputy Premier for visiting Burleigh to meet with locals who want to see consultative long-term planning that delivers housing for those who need it and the infrastructure to support them.

To underscore the point, that is precisely the approach I will adopt for major transport infrastructure. These projects touch lives, impact businesses and change futures. Locals are the greatest stakeholders in their futures and I am committed, in the great conservative tradition, to ensuring that they are the centre of decision-making.

I want to acknowledge that, while I am standing here, my place was earned by the contributions and sacrifices of many. I owe so much to my family, my friends, my mentors, my volunteers and the leadership of the Liberal National Party. To the Premier, I say: thank you for your counsel and your guidance over many years. You are a model of servant leadership and your ambition for Queensland will lift us to new heights. When I was just a first-time council candidate, you were there letterboxing Varsity Lakes with me and then again taking the time to share an espresso with my grandparents around the dinner table. You care about people and I am grateful to play but a small part supporting the government you lead.

To LNP president Lawrence Springborg and LNP state director Ben Riley: thank you for running a principled, values-driven campaign in very trying circumstances. You were ably assisted by Michael Negerevich, Steven Mammarella, Sam Jackson, Jock Power and all the secretariat team and on the Gold Coast by Trent Belling. To my own campaign team: thank you for surrendering a year of your own lives to help give Burleigh a voice in the new government. To Rita Fellows, Doug Anderson, Ben Dillaway, Greg Ingram, Leon Rebello, Rhys Macfarlane, Rob Clarke, Cormack Anning and David Rogers: thank you. To my friends in the rough and tumble of politics—Steven Ciobo; the incisive Fadden MP Cameron Caldwell, and his lovely wife, Lauren; Jack Piggott; Karly Abbott; Kyle Shapland; and Gary Mays: thank you for your wise counsel. To Kristian Marlow, who was there for the hundreds of kilometres walked and the bleary-eyed mornings: thank you. You are a dear friend and I wish you every success in your next chapter. To Brett Nordstrom: thank you, mate. You were right there from the start and responsible for opening this world to me.

My greatest thanks are to my wife, Melissa, and to our three young children, Lucia, Hermann and Maxwell. Melissa, you are an incredible woman and the best partner I could have asked for. You are just, you are compassionate, you are discerning and you are by far the best judge of character I know. It is a blessing that we found each other so early in life and have been able to grow together as we have both grown up. I love you. To Lucia, Hermann and Maxwell: I want you to know that your mum and I love you more than anything in this world. This work may take me away from you from time to time, but just know that it is to give you and your children a better future.

Finally, I want to close by acknowledging that parliamentary representation can be a tough game—tough on ourselves, our families and our communities; tough on each other—but I firmly believe this institution is a force for good, and so even when the times are tough I will hold to the words in Paul's letter to the Romans—

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope ...

Let us all shoulder the burden of this calling—this vocation—so that together we may all give Queensland hope.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!



**Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (9.12 pm): On Christmas Day 2023, a great storm struck the southern parts of Logan and the northern parts of the electorate of Scenic Rim. Across the southern edge of Logan and into Scenic Rim, it wreaked absolute devastation. It was a very narrow but extraordinarily intense path, and the storm destroyed so much in its path that, at least temporarily, locals felt hopeless before the power of nature. However, it was hardly light the next day, and in some cases before light, when members of the community were out there with chainsaws helping clear driveways and the roads and helping out neighbours.

One heartwarming story that I heard that I want to share about my community is that an elderly couple contacted their daughter on the Sunshine Coast through Facebook to say that a tree had gone through their roof. Out of the darkness two young men came with chainsaws—the very kind of young men whom we apparently demonise sometimes in this place—and chopped and lifted that tree out of the roof and put tarps in place so the couple knew that on Christmas eve they had some sign of security. That is the type of community that I represent, but it was not over. It is upsetting that the very structure of your home, your garden, your street and your neighbourhood—things that we can usually take as concrete certainties—can be turned upside down. However, the force of nature was no match for the Jimboomba and Tamborine communities. They rallied together to look after each other.

I want to acknowledge the member for Scenic Rim, whose electorate had even more devastation. We shared some constituents who suffered from that. I was very pleased to look after the Cedar Grove people as well, but I know that he was very busy through that period. I particularly want to acknowledge all of those volunteers at the Jimboomba community hall who were ably led by the tireless Sarah Weir and who swung into action immediately. There was a kitchen, there was coffee dropped in, there was phone charging and we got hot showers going. After a few weeks I know that that whole community was exhausted. This happened at a time that I had set aside in a tough year to renew and recharge, and it was—not in the way of putting your feet up on the beach but renewed in that spirit that I could be extremely proud of the Jimboomba community that I represent and the Queensland spirit. I am so proud of those who stepped forward to help those in need. I am humbled to be their representative in this 58th Parliament of Queensland, and I make my pledge to work hard for them, to stand up for them and for a better Queensland.

We should never take for granted in this state that this place has been dissolved 58 times before an election and then reconstituted peacefully after an election. For the fourth time the people of the electorate of Logan have entrusted me with the responsibility to serve them and to be their representative in this place. Fifty-eight times those who have their names in that hallway outside have put their case to the people of Queensland, and we join them as part of the parliament in this tradition. We should never take for granted that we can do this peacefully whilst accepting the results, taking stock and coming back together again—accepting with grace and humility the results, especially when they do not go our way. This is the most important thing that we can do in this place. I certainly feel that we Australian Labor Party members in this parliament were sent the message from our communities that they felt we could do better, and we hear that message. We also recognise those who have lost contests. They were passionate, hardworking representatives for their electorates. Most of all, I counted them as friends and I have continued to listen to them as they are now humble community members continuing in their different roles to serve their communities.

I know that so often in our society those who are elected to this place and our federal parliament are attacked in the media and on social media. I would not have thought that it was quite as difficult as the early Christians, who of course were physically attacked and hung upside down on crosses et cetera, but nonetheless I take the analogy of St Paul's letter to the Romans. I do know that it is hard sometimes to put yourself forward to participate in democratic contests. I know how hard it is to lose this contest. I have done that myself. I hope that our communities continue to give them support as ordinary community members who tried to do their best for their communities.

I recognise that, clearly, through their votes, the people of Queensland wanted to see some sort of change. I understand that since coming out of COVID we needed to better anticipate and act quicker to build more new housing and to push councils, especially Brisbane, to help with that process. I recognise that the councils in Logan understand the need for young families to move into affordable housing and I want to work with them to continue to do that. We needed to act earlier on the costs of living that Logan residents faced. I have recognised that we needed to do more to ensure that people felt safe in their homes. We did not get it all right, but no government does. I firmly believe in the democratic process and listening to voters—not just those who voted for us but also those who always vote against me, and especially those who voted for us before but this time wanted to give the other side a go.

I want to thank the candidates who ran against me, especially Matt, who promised to keep pushing me on the issues that matter to him. I deeply respect all those who nominated or volunteered for every party. To stand on something is valuable. I want to thank some of the members who ran against me in the past who have become friends and in some cases helped me in my election campaign. Being able to be respectful and listen to their ideas has actually paid dividends that I would not have expected. Some of those who handed out against me, including some who have done it for years, I have come to count as friends—maybe they do not, but I do. They have challenged me on points and

made me think. Even if I do not agree with them, I respect their idealism to stand up for what they genuinely believe. I will not mention names so as to not ruin their reputation within the LNP, but they know who they are.

I also want to thank a particular group of volunteers who helped out in my campaign—that is, my three little volunteers, Jack, Caitlin and Lucy. None of them are that little anymore, but I still think of them as little, even though Jack is now several inches taller than me. I want to thank so many volunteers, because we in the Australian Labor Party know that we can only do it with the support of thousands of people and the union movement. I want to especially thank Lana and Dani. It has been an exhausting year, starting off with a huge storm and ending with the election. They were rocks upon which we were not always easy because it was a tough and stressful time, but I want to thank them. I especially want to reach out to Dani, who I know was having an operation today. I hope it all went well and you are recovering well. As always I want to thank John Mickel. John was a former Speaker.

**Mr Stevens:** Hear, hear!

**Mr POWER:** I notice the member for Mermaid Beach recognises John Mickel. He is an incredible person whose integrity and values and his desire to be the very best in representing a place shine through. I also want to thank Teresa Lane, who, again, is a long-term friend. Her work as a councillor, where she is deeply embedded in her community and deeply connected to the grassroots of that community, means that she is very valuable in relation to the principles of being a member but also just keeping me sensible and level-headed. While I am talking of council, I want to thank the other councillors—Jon, Sledge, Scotty, Tim and Natalie—who each in their own way have pushed me to be a better member, sometimes by saying that I am not doing well enough and at other times by giving me good ideas and connecting me with community. I always appreciate when they ring up to say, 'I think this is more of a state issue. Do you want to call them?', because it keeps me grounded and connected to my community. Scotty ran against me. He is one of those people who, even though you run against him in a contest, you get to think of as a good friend.

I want to thank Crystal, David E, Lisa B, Hayden, Kilian, Terry Mac, Jen and Michael Eborn, who are away in New Zealand on a very special remembrance trip; Stuart, who is a teacher; Aunty Leonie and her granddaughter Shantay; Pat and Sarah, who I mentioned before; and Kate, Ryan and Michael George. I want to thank Girmay, Joan and Terry, who I see so much of and are so valuable to me; Terry Carter, Sue, Neil Borman, Adrienne Cremin, an old friend, Dot and Art, Carolyn Siemon, Sayed from a community group. I also want to thank someone who perhaps did not have the energy or the fitness to help, but helped renew me last year and this year as a member of parliament. Her name is Margaret Crowther. I first heard about her when her daughter rang because she had had an \$8,000 bill from the Logan council for her water. She had been away in hospital, and the ground had shifted and a pipe had broken and the water had spewed out into a creek on the edge of her block. Even people coming to check on the house had not noticed that water was going into the creek.

This \$8,000 for a pensioner was absolutely devastating. I took the issue to the former water minister, the member for Gladstone, and I explained the situation to him. I also explained that Margaret Crowther was somebody real and I said that we needed to change this law. We put in place high water charges because we wanted people to value water use and be careful with it, but that was not the objective if they did not know about it. I want to thank the member for Gladstone because he worked with the department to say this is a fairness and equity issue, that the marginal bulk cost of water is very low so we can do the fair thing and get that money back. I managed in a small way to change the law. We legislated it here. For me it was the Margaret Crowther law. Although this might be a small thing, I think that it is something that has helped one person in each of our electorates—maybe it is a South-East Queensland thing, to be honest. It might be a person like Margaret of very limited income who really needed that help. You can make a difference when you have ministers who deeply care when you bring them a story about a real person.

My wife, Jacki, of course did not volunteer for me, but I value her enormously. As we transition into the stage of life where our children have become young adults—which seems shocking enough—and our parents age, we face new challenges. I think that it is incredible that I am doing it with her.

I want to thank the Australian union movement. Too often in this place we see their integrity traduced. We see attacks on the people who go out to a site after a worker has been killed, who then go with their workmates to a house to explain to a grieving partner what happened and how they want to care for them, get fair compensation, but also want to see that it never happens again. They work not just for safety but for decent pay. If we are in a society where people do not get decent pay and conditions for hard work and all of those winnings accrue in our society for those who own companies and shares—those who already have get even more—then we are doing something wrong.

I have been a member of the Australian Workers' Union for many years. They are a union that is particularly close to my heart. I want to thank Stacey Schinnerl in particular, but all the workers of the Australian Workers' Union. I also want to thank all the other unions, the T-dubs, the plumbers, the teachers, all who have done such an amazing job for the people of Queensland. Recently I was at the coalminers' dinner and they were giving an award to a delegate. The vice president said of the delegate that he is the best type of delegate because he knows how to do everything on the mine site. He knows how to run every piece of equipment, he knows how to fix every piece of equipment so the bosses could not get rid of him if they tried. I thought that was a great work ethic for the United Mineworkers Union as they are now called. They value the work, they value doing the hard work, but also want to ensure it is fair and safe.

We deeply respect and understand the will of Queenslanders. Sometimes when a government loses all that they did gets overlooked. I want to respectfully point out the many positive things we achieved for Queensland in the last parliament. When we were at estimates the former premier Steven Miles reminded me that we had spoken together as teenagers about getting fairer fares for those in outer suburbia. We got to deliver that for every young person in outer northern suburbia and in Logan who was struggling to afford that transport.

We built two new bus lines and there are three more to come, supported demand-responsive transport and introduced the Tools for Tradies initiative. We recognised that the cost of living was hurting people so we did some extraordinary things such as introducing 20 per cent off car and ute registration, \$1,000 energy rebates to help people who are struggling and free TAFE. Perhaps those things will be forgotten.

**Mr Healy:** Sporting vouchers.

**Mr POWER:** The former sports minister mentions the sporting vouchers and there are other things such as free kindy. We recognised that when your kids go into kindy it can be one of the most expensive times in your life—especially in Logan, where so many families have also bought houses, which can be a double whammy. We helped the AFL Giants and many other sporting groups. In this term I want to help the Pirates.

I recognise how much we did for schools. It is great to see former minister Grace in the House, because she was committed to building the new schools we needed in outer suburbia. That was about more than just building old-style schools. I will not mention any names, but perhaps for some people outer suburbia was a second-rate place where the LNP delivered second-rate schools. We delivered the best schools in Queensland. I recognise that we air-conditioned schools in South-East Queensland. It is an extraordinary thing that the department managed to air-condition every school in Queensland. I know we have talked about that.

I want to reflect on the Mount Lindesay Highway, which I spoke about last night. All members recognise that no LNP minister has ever initiated and delivered a project on the Mount Lindesay Highway. In fact, history shows that the LNP has only cut projects. Halfway through the project, they cut funding for the Green Road through to Stoney Camp Road upgrade. We are building that project right now and I hope that the LNP does not cut it. If they try to, it will not be like last time, when LNP members were silent, because I will fight tooth and nail to stop them from cutting that project like they did last time. If we get through that—and I know it will be a struggle—let's build the Green Road overpass and the four lanes from Chambers Flat Road through to Green Road. Those projects deserve backing to support a growing community.

**Government members** interjected.


**Mr POWER:** Minister, I can see there is a lot of excitement for the Mount Lindesay Highway so you had better deliver.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Member for Logan, you have the call. It would help if you were not being provocative.

**Mr POWER:** I am also excited by the new challenge that the opposition leader has presented me with, which is to be a fighter for mineworkers and the resources industries of Queensland. I know that they do a fantastic job in both hard rock, where my family comes from, and in coal, where my wife's family comes from. In that way ours is a mixed marriage. I am deeply passionate about resources—the people who work in the resources industries, getting a fair return for Queensland, keeping workers safe and attracting new investment. Investors are excited about the mining industry in Queensland and I am excited by this challenge. I look forward to getting some productive things done and having great policy that strengthens Queensland after the next election.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Redlands, I remind members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with the respect that it deserves.

 **Mrs YOUNG (Redlands—LNP) (9.33 pm):** Today I rise deeply honoured and humbled to serve the people of the Redlands as their newly elected member of parliament. This role is not just a privilege; it is an immense responsibility. The trust and faith that the people of the Redlands have placed in me will inspire me every day to work harder, aim higher and achieve more. The Redlands is more than just where I live; it is where my story began. It is where my parents taught me the importance of hard work, care for my community and compassion for others. It is where I attended school, played sport, raised my family, bought my first home and successfully started a business. I stand here as a proud daughter of the Redlands, ready to serve the community that has given me so much.

Firstly, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the Premier of Queensland and member for Broadwater, the Hon. David Crisafulli. His leadership and commitment to the LNP's Right Plan for Queensland have been nothing short of inspiring. His vision for a better Queensland is not about politics; it is about people. It is about families like mine, businesses like those in our community and every Queenslanders who deserves to thrive. Former prime minister John Howard once said—

Truth is absolute, truth is supreme, truth is never disposable in national political life.

Those words resonate deeply with me because they remind us that leadership is not about shortcuts or spin. It is about being honest, acting with integrity and delivering on your promises. Premier Crisafulli embodies this sentiment and I am inspired to follow his example. It is with this same sense of purpose that I step into my role as Assistant Minister to the Deputy Premier and Assistant Minister for Planning, Housing and Better Regulation. This is an opportunity I do not take for granted. Premier, I will work hard to ensure that your confidence in me is honoured. I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me to serve the Redlands.

After receiving the LNP local membership's endorsement to represent them as their candidate for the Redlands in 2022, this moment has been two years in the making. It has been a two-year journey of growth, challenges and resilience. It has been a transformative experience filled with long and full days and unwavering determination.

I would not be standing here today without the love and support of my husband, Justin. Justin, you are my partner in every sense of the word. Your belief in me has been my greatest source of strength. Together we have proven that 'whatever it takes' is possible. Every single day you have been there as my cheerleader, my adviser and my anchor. Together we have built a life in the Redlands that is rooted in the community, family and service. I cannot thank you enough for standing by my side through every sacrifice and every challenge. Your love and commitment to our family and our community inspire me to be the best version of myself.

To our children, Jaxson, Georgia-Grace, Chelsea and Harland: you are the reason I strive every single day to be better and to do better. I know that our family has never been traditional and at times life's challenges have meant we have had to work harder to overcome adversity or endure moments when we could not be together in one place, but through it all my love for each of you has been unshakeable. You are, and you always will be, my greatest motivation. Everything Dad and I have done—every late night, every decision and every sacrifice—has been with you in mind. My hope is that the example we have set for you inspires you to dream big, follow your passions and contribute to the world with kindness and compassion. Each of you has a unique spark and I have no doubt you will make it a better place in your own extraordinary ways. Always know how proud we are of you and how deeply you are all loved.

To my parents, who instilled in me the values of service and dedication while raising me in the Redlands community: thank you for being my first role models. Your example continues to guide me as I strive to serve the Redlands with integrity and heart. The lessons you taught me about hard work, humility and community service are the foundations of everything that I do. This moment is as much yours as it is mine. Those values are deeply rooted in my upbringing and are the same principles I will bring to this role.

From my years at Victoria Point State School, where I learned to live the motto of 'Always our best', to Ormiston College, where I was encouraged to 'seek to achieve', the Redlands community has been instrumental in shaping who I am today. It instilled in me the value of hard work, the importance of family and the enduring power of resilience. A decade ago, that foundation gave me the courage to take a leap of faith, as so many Queenslanders do, and start my own international freight business from



my home in Victoria Point. What began as an idea fuelled by determination has grown into an enterprise that creates jobs, contributes to the local economy and is now located in the fastest growing commercial area in the Redlands, the Redlands Business Park.

That journey taught me more than the intricacies of running a business; it revealed the profound and lasting impact small businesses have on the very fabric of our community. Small businesses are not just economic engines; they are the heart of our neighbourhoods. They sponsor our children's sporting teams, ensuring our local clubs thrive, and give young athletes the chance to play, compete and grow. They are the backbones of our chambers of commerce, driving collaboration and innovation whilst advocating for growth and opportunity.

Small businesses take on essential roles in our community from providing the daily service we rely on to owning and managing commercial properties that become gathering points for friends, families and neighbours. They create spaces where ideas flourish, connections are made and lives are improved. Their contributions go far beyond financial success. They make our communities livable and vibrant. From the corner cafe that hosts weekend conversations to the tradespeople who ensure our homes are functional and safe, small businesses enrich our daily lives in countless ways. This experience has solidified my understanding of the importance of small businesses as the backbone of our community and the key to Redlands' future.

Redlands is a place of extraordinary beauty and potential. It is a place where families thrive, businesses grow and nature is cherished. From the island lifestyle of southern Moreton Bay to the vibrant suburbs of Thornlands, Victoria Point and Redland Bay, Redlands is a community unlike any other. Our history as the salad bowl of South-East Queensland reflects the resilience and the innovation of our people. Today, the same spirit drives us forward but Redlands is also a community facing challenges. During my campaign, I was privileged to sit with Redlanders from all walks of life and hear their stories, stories that have shaped my purpose and commitment to serve my community with bravery and action.

I sat at the dining room table of Adam and Natalie in Thornlands over 14 months ago now as they shared how youth crime made them feel trapped in their home. I helped Sam and her six children move from a freezing tent in Victoria Point into a home across the road from a school where her kids could continue their education and she could return to work. For the first time in months, she could sleep peacefully knowing her children were under a safe, secure roof.

I listened to Melissa, a newlywed and small business owner in Victoria Point, who saw her livelihood threatened when her car was stolen not once but twice in one week. I met Sarah, who watched her husband almost die on the floor of their family home after he fell through a glass window. She could not get an ambulance when he needed it most. I stood with Sonu, the owner of our local FoodWorks, who endured four break-ins this year, losing not only \$70,000 in stock but also his peace of mind. I supported Chris and his wife, Jodie—he simply went to Woolies on a Wednesday to buy a cooked chook and ended up fighting for his life after being stabbed by a youth offender.

These are not just stories; they are urgent reminders of the challenges our community faces and the action Redlands need and deserve. They represent the struggles, fears and hopes of real people—our neighbours, friends and families—who deserve better. They deserve solutions. They deserve to feel supported and safe in their own community.

Whether I was standing on someone's doorstep, answering a call, chatting in a shopping centre or sharing a conversation over a coffee at my local cafe, I heard these stories firsthand. The raw honesty and emotion behind each experience left a lasting mark on me. These moments were not just conversations; they were calls for action. They were calls for help. They were cries for change and a powerful affirmation that Redlands is ready for a fresh start. Every interaction reminded me of why I stepped forward to listen, to understand and to fight for the community that had been calling out for action. It is these stories that have guided my vision and priorities for Redlands.

To support and guide our youth, I am proud to back the Top Blokes program, helping young people build resilience and respect while diverting them away from a path of crime. To preserve the natural beauty that defines Redlands we will deliver a conservation management plan on Coochiemudlo Island, safeguarding our environment for future generations. We will address infrastructure challenges by getting Cleveland-Redland Bay Road back on track and finally delivering the long-awaited construction of a multilevel car park at Weinam Creek.

For our island residents, we will provide parking relief through a 50 per cent subsidy on vehicle barge travel and free memberships to Bay Islands Car Share. We will also keep the 50-cent ferry fare, ensuring affordable and accessible transport for everyone. To empower our local workforce, we will establish a Russell Island training centre of excellence, boasting training opportunities and supporting our economy. We are committing \$12 million to relocate the RSPCA Wildlife Hospital to Redlands, ensuring our treasured wildlife receives the care it deserves while creating opportunities for training, education and jobs—resources Redlands has long needed.

Each of these commitments reflects the voices and the needs of our community, needs I heard loud and clear during my campaign. These are not just plans on paper; they are steps forward to build a Redlands that we can all be proud to call our home, where everyone can thrive and where our shared future is bright, sustainable and inclusive.

I know that the people of Redlands want more than just promises; they want action. They want someone who will listen, stand up for them and fight tirelessly for positive change. That is why I am here. I am here to provide the brave voice and stability that our community needs and deserves. My opportunity to serve exists because the people of Redlands wanted a fresh start. They wanted someone who would do more than just announce plan after plan or review after review. They wanted a representative who will deliver real outcomes and meaningful change in response to their needs.

I will never stop listening. I will work with an open door, an open mind and a relentless drive to champion solutions that will truly make a difference in people's lives. My role is not just to serve but to empower. Together, we will build a community where families feel supported, businesses thrive and everyone feels safe and valued. Redlands deserves nothing less, and I will not rest until we achieve it.

As I reflect on the journey that brought me here, I know I would not be standing in this chamber today without the unwavering support of so many people. My maiden speech would not be complete without acknowledging and thanking those who walked alongside me every step of the way. Firstly, a special thankyou to my mum, Karen. Mum, I never imagined you would be out there wearing a Rebecca Young shirt, waving on the side of the road and handing out how-to-vote cards but there you were—devoted, reliable and someone I have always looked up to. You have shown me what it means to be committed to family and community. Your strength and encouragement throughout this journey meant the world to me and I could not have done it without you.

To my incredible 'roadsiders' who brought so much energy to this campaign—every morning, rain, hail or shine, you were there. To my mother-in-law, Bev, Ben, Gloria, Fred and my Auntie Rose: you made those early mornings brighter and more meaningful. Fred, with your trusty clicker we shared the thrill of every wave from passing cars, each one a small but powerful sign of support from the community. I think our record was 270 in just one hour! Your enthusiasm and dedication brought joy to those mornings and kept my spirits high.

To my best friends, Kim and Mandy, and your families: thank you for standing by me every step of the way. Kim, who would have thought you would find yourself talking politics with your school friends, your sport friends and even your extended family. Watching your new-found love for democracy has been an absolute joy. For the past 13 years, you have been my loyal friends. You have supported me through thick and thin, even when I have roped you into some of my craziest ideas, and I love that our husbands tried to keep us apart. Your friendship means everything to me and I am endlessly grateful. To Natalie and Yolande, the two incredible women who stood beside me alongside our new Premier on day one: your friendship and support were invaluable. In those early days, your Friday night FaceTimes kept me grounded. Your companionship made this journey easier, and I am so thankful to have shared this experience with you.

To the Young LNP: you are a force to be reckoned with. On 15 April 2023 we held my very first campaign roadside—a defining moment that made it clear the LNP had arrived in the Redlands. You turned out in incredible numbers, showcasing your energy, enthusiasm and commitment to the cause. That event set the tone for a campaign fuelled by passion and teamwork.

A special mention goes to the outstanding leadership of the Young LNP, guided by four remarkable presidents over the past two years—Darcy, Kate, Alex and now Helen. Each of you has left a lasting legacy and your leadership has set a high standard for those who follow. Of course, I cannot mention the Young LNP without giving a special shout-out to Declan. Declan, you made sure I always had a great photograph. I hope that by thanking you tonight in my first speech I have secured good photographs for years to come.

It may seem unusual to acknowledge a member from another electorate in this speech, but I would like to honour the late Bob Harper, a former member for Mount Ommaney. Although I never had the privilege of meeting Bob, his influence on Redland City politics over nearly two decades cannot be overstated. Bob's unwavering dedication to supporting candidates, sharing his expertise and mentoring professional campaigners helped shape the political landscape in the Redlands. Without his efforts, our city may still be in the hands of the Labor government at every level of government. To Bob's family, especially his wife, Rhonda, I extend my deepest gratitude. Without Bob's contributions, I may not be standing here today.

Finally, I turn to my incredible campaign team. To former member for Redlands, Matt McEachan, who is in the gallery tonight: your ongoing commitment to our community goes far beyond the call of duty. Matt, you believed in me from day one. You have become a mentor and a friend and I thank you. To campaign manager, Shane Goodwin, who, alongside Matt, has trained in the art of local campaigning by Bob Harper: your guidance was invaluable. Ange Awabdy, Grant McCoy and Kristian Marlow: your tireless dedication, often on an hourly basis, carried us through this 19-month journey. Justin and I are deeply grateful for your unwavering support, which made every challenge lighter and every victory sweeter.

As I close my first speech, I am filled with a profound sense of purpose and pride. To be part of the 2024 cohort is truly humbling. My new colleagues are not just representatives; they are champions of their communities, each bringing a unique voice and perspective to the Queensland puzzle. Together, I know we will deliver the fresh start Queenslanders have been calling for. For Redland City, I am especially optimistic about what lies ahead. With Henry, Amanda and Russell all working beside me as a united front, I am confident that our community's future is bright. This is not just a vision; it is a promise—a promise to work tirelessly for the betterment of the Redlands and to always put our community first.

As I close, I want to reaffirm my gratitude to everyone who has walked this journey with me—my family, my friends, my campaign team and, most importantly, the people of Redlands. Redlands, your trust inspires me every single day. This is only the beginning and I am ready to work hard to listen and deliver for our community. Thank you.

**Government members:** Hear, hear!


Debate, on motion of Mrs Young, adjourned.

## MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 370, on motion of Mrs Frecklington—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (9.54 pm), continuing: How do we reconcile as a community that we do not believe children have the moral culpability of maturity to be left at home alone, drink alcohol, smoke, have a credit card, drive and now use social media until a certain age because they arguably are not mature enough to understand and manage the consequences but that they will now be held not only to an adult standard but rather above it in some circumstances in respect of offending?

Not every child who comes before the court is a serious offender, but every child will now have detention as a last resort removed. The government could have emulated the PSA and applied this change only to the 13 serious offences listed by the government in respect of their Adult Crime, Adult Time offences, but they did not. Clause 15 applies to all children who come before the court for sentencing for all offences.

Quite separately to explaining the incongruence in this House and to victims of adult crime, how do I go home and explain that to my 11- and 13-year-olds? How does any parent in this chamber explain to their children or young people across Queensland that they are growing up in a community that judges them at law more harshly than adults?

The bill removes the opportunity for orders of restorative justice for the 13 listed Criminal Code offences. Restorative justice is not appropriate for every situation by any means, but the efficacy of restorative justice is proven in respect of reducing reoffending and supporting victims to recover from their trauma when all parties indicate it as their chosen outcome. The bill removes that choice from victims. The criticism I most commonly heard from victims who wanted to participate in restorative


justice related to delays to have their matter proceed. Victims want timely outcomes but they also want to be empowered with choice in the process. This does not honour those wishes. Victims have told me they want more choice, not less.

The final matter I want to raise in the time I have remaining is the inclusion of cautions in criminal histories. The Queensland Police Service has long used police cautions as a way to divert first or light-touch young people from the criminal justice system. Empirical studies have found that in the order of 65 to 70 per cent of first offenders—so a clear majority of young people—who have a first offence, often shoplifting, will successfully be diverted by the QPS using their continuum of diversionary measures. A record is kept in QPRIME, but to now require that such cautions are to form a formal part of a young person's criminal record may have the concerning unintended consequence of net widening.

Children make mistakes. We are arguably not talking about serious offences and offenders here. We are more likely talking about simple or summary offences such as public nuisance or regulatory offences such as shoplifting. Including cautions in a young person's formal criminal history discourages children from participating in these initial diversionary processes, ultimately increasing the workload of the court, delaying the resolution of matters for victims and including matters in formal criminal histories that have not been given the benefit of judicial scrutiny but may carry significant limiting effects as it relates to employment for young Queenslanders.

The elements I have just outlined have perverse outcomes for the very victims this bill purports to serve and the community safety it claims to deliver. To revisit these clauses of the bill does not in any way impinge or limit the government's Adult Crime, Adult Time slogan and asserted mandate, but they do give effect to the voices of submitters to the inquiry. They give effect to the voices of victim advocacy groups to the inquiry and they are worthy of being considered as the genuine contributions that they are intended as in this House.

To genuinely keep the community safe is something that we all agree on. The elements of this bill in its current form that I have outlined fail that test. They are worthy of being considered and the voices of the stakeholders to the inquiry, however short that was, are worthy of being considered so that the Queensland community can genuinely be kept safer, but the perverse outcomes, particularly for victims of adult crime and particularly for young children who are being brought into the system—not serious and repeat offenders—are not caught in a system too early and inadvertently brought into that system and this issue made worse.

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (9.59 pm): I am proud to rise in this chamber today to support the Making Queensland Safer Laws because I, like all of the residents of my wonderful electorate of Townsville, want to see fewer victims of crime. I am proud to support this law because the people of Townsville, like all Queenslanders, have the right to feel safe in their homes, at their work and in their communities. My journey to this place began with a commitment to bring about a change in Queensland's youth justice laws, which wrongly put the rights of young criminals before the rights of victims.

Under Labor, Queensland's suburbs became youth crime war zones. Our homes and places of work were under siege from a generation of repeat offenders who ran riot and robbed us of our safety. Since I began my journey to this place I have met hundreds of people who have personally been a victim of crime and now are too scared to go about their lives in our community. Without any doubt, crime is the first, second and third issue to be raised by residents who want to feel safe in their homes and to live their lives without fear of being carjacked while driving on our roads, assaulted on our streets or having their feeling of security taken away forever after a young person breaks into their home and steals their car. As I doorknocked thousands of doors during the recent campaign, it saddened me to see local residents spending thousands of dollars during a cost-of-living crisis to safeguard their homes with cameras, security grilles and gates so they could attempt to protect what is theirs and sleep safely in their home at night.

I listened to harrowing stories in my electorate. I heard from one resident, Lysa, who had been broken into and had her car stolen multiple times. She eventually gave up on owning a car and now uses scooters as her mode of transport in an attempt to prevent further break-ins so she can feel safe in her home.

I heard from Emma, a local GP. After a busy week of serving our community she went to do her weekly shopping. At 11.30 on a sunny Sunday morning in a busy car park she was pulled out of her car by her hair. The alleged young female offender was well known to police. The car Emma was driving was only two weeks old. It was the replacement for Emma's original car, which had been stolen and

written off only five weeks earlier. It was only by way of good fortune that an off-duty police officer was present and witness to the event that someone was able to intervene, and on this occasion the carjacking was unsuccessful. The alleged offender was detained.

I met Noelene, an 81-year-old resident who returned home on a Friday afternoon with groceries for the week in the boot of her car. While unloading the groceries young offenders pulled up, jumped in the vehicle and began driving her car away. It contained her purse, which she was still holding on to. They dragged her along the road until she reluctantly let go. Her neighbours ran to her aid and Noelene spent the night in hospital.

I have heard from parents who have had to comfort children who do not feel safe at home and children asking parents if the bad people, or bandits, are coming back to take the car again before they go to bed every night. I have heard from families like Toni and John's, who moved house in an effort to see their children feel safe enough to sleep in their own beds after being left traumatised after being woken up by intruders in their bedroom, only to suffer the same misfortune in their new home.


As a resident of Townsville, it is now common practice when stopped at traffic lights to lock your doors to protect against carjacking attempts and to look left and right after the lights turn green before entering the intersection in case there is a stolen vehicle about to run a red light. Many residents across the community have shared that they have changed where they shop for fear of their own personal safety. I have met with elderly women like Susan who have resorted to arming themselves with a box cutter in their purse for protection in case they get accosted as they negotiate their way across the car park.

This is the mess the former Labor government has left the state of Queensland in—a state where parents have to reassure their children each night that they will be safe as they attempt to put them to bed; a state where the most vulnerable feel like prisoners in their own home; a state where people are being forced to move house, no longer feeling safe in their own home after being targeted repeatedly by young offenders. The Making Queensland Safer Laws will see young offenders who commit adult crimes do adult time.

We know that the youth who commit the most serious offences are doing so deliberately. We know they prey on the vulnerable. Make no mistake; they know exactly what they are doing. It is our job as elected members of this place to protect the communities which we are elected to serve. As the first bill introduced in the 58th Parliament, this bill demonstrates the importance that we on this side of the House place on honouring our commitment to Queenslanders to have these laws in place by Christmas.

These proposed laws, which were overwhelmingly backed by Townsvillians and Queenslanders alike across the state at the election, will address the failures of those opposite who allowed youth crime to run rampant in our communities for nearly a decade under their watch. The Making Queensland Safer Bill contains many elements that will address the youth crime crisis that has been plaguing Queenslanders and align our justice system with public expectations. Of note, it includes: removing detention as a last resort; putting the rights of the victim before the rights of the offender; and adult crime, adult time. The Making Queensland Safer Bill means that a judge can consider whether it is an offender's first offence or 70th offence and hand down sentences in line with community expectations. The Making Queensland Safer Bill will ensure that serial repeat offenders who commit serious crimes receive the time they need away from the social cohort that saw them commit those crimes and have the best opportunity to be rehabilitated.

When I grew up discipline began at home. If there was a lack of discipline at home, it was found at school. If ultimately it was missing at school, the police would get involved. Over the years the ability to provide discipline has been taken away from our schools and even our police. The legislation determines the outcomes and sets what our judicial system can hand down as punishment. The Making Queensland Safer Bill will remove those offenders who are committing the most serious crimes in our community. In most cases they are also the ringleaders. The police know them by name, and they know that every time they are released the community is going to suffer. Queenslanders knew they could not trust Labor to be tough on crime, which is why they backed us on this side of the House to deliver action. We made a commitment to Queensland that if elected we would have these laws in place before Christmas. I am proud to be part of a government that does what it says it would do and delivers on its commitments. I am proud to support this bill. It represents the tough on crime approach that Queenslanders have been pleading for. While those on the other side refused to deliver it, we will and we are.

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (10.08 pm): I rise to speak and make a modest contribution to the Making Queensland Safer Bill. The Crisafulli government makes no apologies for delivering on our commitment to Queenslanders that Adult Crime, Adult Time will be law by Christmas. These laws are tough but Queenslanders have backed them. They have backed the Crisafulli government to take strong action to end the youth crime crisis terrorising communities across our state. My electorate of Hervey Bay has not been and is not quarantined from the challenges and devastating effects of youth crime in our community. Over the last four years or so, as I have regularly engaged with our community, I have seen up close and personal the destructive impact of youth crime on the financial, psychological and physical wellbeing of our small business owners and vulnerable members in our community.

In the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, many of our small businesses have furthermore experienced the destructive economic costs of youth crime: rising insurance premiums, the costly replacement of stock, temporarily standing down employees after break and enters, increased security costs and so on. We all remember Labor's five-word slogan: 'Keeping us safe and strong'. Well, the former Labor member for Hervey Bay made a hasty retreat from keeping us safe and strong when youth crime became a problem in our community. Many in our Hervey Bay community are hardly feeling safe and strong.

Whilst on the Fraser Coast Regional Council I instigated a crime prevention through environmental design audit and a small business and community organisations crime prevention workshop. The previous member for Hervey Bay was a no-show. It is this type of disengagement by Labor that has given rise to our youth crime crisis. Only the LNP has the right priority in making our community safer because we have been listening and engaged with our communities.

Our Making Queensland Safer Bill will amend the Youth Justice Act to make young offenders who commit offences, particularly serious offences, accountable by ensuring that courts have proper regard to the impact of youth offending on victims and impose the appropriate penalties that meet community expectations. This bill will remove detention as a last resort from the sentencing principles and make serious young offenders more accountable for their offending. There is much talk from those opposite about the best interests of the young offenders yet little apparent concern for the best interests of victims, their families and the wider community.

Deterrence is a well-established sentencing principle designed to discourage offenders from committing serious crimes by threatening or applying a criminal sanction. According to a 2024 Queensland audit report, there has been a 64 per cent increase in the average daily number of serious repeat offenders since 2019. Labor's weak laws and a decade of chaos have given rise to a generation of untouchables who have been immunised from the consequences of their crimes because there is simply no deterrence. This is a generation of young offenders who are cognisant of the fact that the scales of Lady Justice have been unequally and unfairly skewed or weighted to their advantage. Our Making Queensland Safer Bill will recalibrate the scales of Lady Justice to ensure that the rights of victims are actively considered in sentencing. Our Making Queensland Safer Bill will provide for equality, transparency and fairness in the administration of justice.

This bill provides that a new principle will be included in the charter of youth justice principles specifically recognising the impact of offending on the victim. It means that the court must have proper regard in sentencing a young offender to the impact of the offending on the victim. This bill recognises the rights of victims as being at the forefront of the youth justice system and that there must be open justice and public confidence in our justice system. Young offenders who commit serious crimes will be held accountable for their actions and the harm that they cause to victims, and our courts will be able to impose appropriate penalties that meet community expectations.

We talk a lot about youth crime statistics. Behind the chilling statistics are victims and their families. They are not numbers. They are human beings with families and connections to our community: Jayden, Lauren, Chris, Paul, Justin, Nate, Karl, Cheryl, Aggie, Kim and so on—all small business owners in our Hervey Bay community.

Youth crime in Hervey Bay and our region has devastated our community. We are mournfully mindful of that tragic crime in Maryborough that snatched away the lives of Michale Chandler, Kelsie Davies and Sheree Robertson involving a 13-year-old offender. We are also sadly mindful of the death of Scott Cabrie from Toogoom, a part-time radio announcer and rideshare driver. Labor's weak youth justice laws also mean that a young offender's criminal history was inadmissible in sentencing an offender. Our Making Queensland Safer Bill will provide for a new definition of a child's criminal history to include cautions, restorative justice agreements and contraventions of a supervised release order. This will be admissible only in sentencing and admissible when sentencing as an adult, with a limitation of five years from the date of the outcome for the last childhood offence.


In Hervey Bay I know of one small business owner who sat through three restorative justice agreements, each of these with the same young offender. Our bill will provide a complete picture of the offender's history so that a judge can structure appropriate sentencing in line with community expectations. The court inevitably determines what weight to give to the criminal history of an offender, and our bill does not constrain a judge's general discretion in sentencing. Nevertheless, a young offender's criminal history will now be a factor of relevance in determining a sentence.

Those opposite are in denial and have been missing in action when it comes to tackling the issue of the youth crime crisis. Their default position was: 'It's a media beat-up.' They adopted the proverbial 'ignorance is bliss', hoping that by not talking about youth crime it would somehow make it all go away. This obstinate refusal of Queensland Labor to listen to our community has resulted in the rights of young offenders disproportionately prevailing over the rights of victims. The LNP has listened and is listening to our community. We are united in standing up for the rights of victims.

The tough provisions contained in the bill complement our LNP plans for gold standard early intervention and crime prevention programs throughout Queensland to ensure there are fewer victims of crime. There is \$50 million to be invested into nine regional reset programs, including the Fraser Coast. These early intervention residential programs will provide 24/7 intensive support for at-risk young people who require a higher level of care than some community-based organisations can provide. These will be short-stay one- to three-week programs. A young person can be referred to the service from school, police, Child Safety or parents. These programs will be delivered.

We have one great regional reset early intervention program on the Fraser Coast and it is called Operation Hard Yakka. I have been attending their graduations for five years. This is the type of gold standard early intervention reset program contemplated in our Making Queensland Safer Laws. The former Labor members for Maryborough and Hervey Bay were repeatedly invited to attend the graduations but they boycotted these events. Shame on them. It was Labor who weakened Queensland youth justice laws in 2016 and has consistently declared the youth crime crisis as a media beat-up.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (10.19 pm): I rise to speak on the bill before us. As we have heard from our Labor members, we will not stand in the way of the LNP increasing maximum sentences. That meets the needs of people in society. I listened carefully to the member for Townsville, talking about his harrowing stories of what has happened there. It reminded me that I have seen three cycles of youth crime go through the region and the community over the 20-odd years that I have been representing my community. It is never easy. I sincerely believe the laws before the House will actually not meet the LNP promise of keeping Queenslanders safe. I do believe there are elements of the bill that will undermine protection for victims.

The member for Gaven made it clear that some of the measures in this bill have the potential for a range of unintended consequences. The member made clear Queenslanders did not vote for laws that potentially put victims on trial because there is that possibility, as we have heard, that victims could be cross-examined. Every single expert in the bill's hearing stated that if the impacts on victims is one of the primary principles, there is a possibility that defence lawyers will get that opportunity to cross-examine the victim there.

**Mr Hunt:** No, not true.

**Mr WHITING:** The member ahead of me is having another go. He has already had one go. We have listened to you in silence. Now give us the same opportunity.

**Mr Head:** Well, start speaking the truth then.

**Mr WHITING:** Do you really want to go through it like this?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Member for Bancroft, please take your seat. I think there is a point of order.

**Mr KEMPTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is clearly directing his comments towards somebody who is not involved in this debate. If he has an objection, he should make it to you, not to the member.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I take that point. The member for Bancroft did make a relevant point in terms of the previous government speakers having been heard in silence. I expect the same to apply to every other speaker from here on, otherwise I will be taking action against anyone who interjects.

**Mr WHITING:** We know that Queenslanders did not vote to end restorative justice. That is a process that has been supported by many victims groups. As we heard from the member for Bulimba, satisfaction with restorative justice sits above 70 per cent for some groups. I heard the member for Hervey Bay saying before it does not work for everyone, but for many people it does.

The LNP are ramming through laws that, as the experts we heard from have said, may make the system worse. It will have unintended consequences. Bravehearts said—

Adopting policies that are not based on evidence and careful scrutiny of their impact on our children and young people, would be a grave error.

The Queensland Mental Health Commission stated—

It is noted the short timeframe for consultation on the Bill may lead to unintended consequences.

The Independent Ministerial Advisory Council said—

It is the view of the IMAC that the fast-tracked process for developing this legislation has not allowed for an appropriate and evidence-based consideration of complex issues and any potential unintended consequences of the Bill.

The Queensland Family and Child Commission, in Commissioner Lewis' submission, said—

The evidence is also clear that making laws without appropriately scrutinising the unintended consequences of those decisions, will ultimately have far reaching implications.

Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group said—

... when legislation like this is rushed it can have unintended consequences and it can also trigger victims who already distrust Government.

Associate Professor Terry Goldsworthy from Bond University said—

It is disappointing that such a tight timeframe was imposed on submissions in relation to this bill. It would have been much more prudent to allow sufficient time for comprehensive submissions to be made. The last time legislation was rushed through the parliamentary process like this it resulted in the ill-conceived and problematic VLAD anti-bikie laws that were a dismal failure in terms of combating organised crime.

The Queensland Council of Social Service stated—

The amendments in the Bill do not deliver evidence based initiatives that effectively empower victims and reduce reoffending.

The Queensland Law Society stated—

There is no evidence that lengthy custodial sentences deter young offenders.

I cannot remember seeing a bill that engenders so much opposition from those who work in those specialists areas. What we all glean from the comments by the submitters is that so many have said there could potentially be many unintended consequences. So many have said it possibly will not work as the LNP has promised. Everyone has said it is too rushed, even Voice for Victims.

Let's remember, no-one saw what the bill actually proposed before the election, and when it was exposed, everyone said it was full of potential unintended consequences and may make the situation worse. That is why we need more time to examine the bill to see if it would possibly make things worse for victims. I know the LNP opposite do care about victims, so I say to them, please take the extra six to eight weeks to scrutinise this bill properly to make sure we minimise any possible unintended consequences.

One of the best things you can say about this bill is that it is a pathway; it is not a solution. But it does complement the solutions we have already brought in over the past number of years. We brought in two weighty bills over the past two years. The LNP have always said that we watered down the laws 10 years ago. The truth is that in the last couple of years we brought in the toughest laws in Australia, led by evidence.

We invested significantly in community safety. Our Queensland Community Safety Bill, part of our Community Safety Plan, was backed by \$1.28 billion in investment. We backed our law changes with the investment that was needed to make them work. Those on the front line told us what was needed, and we listened to them. Our plan was working, with the police telling us—this is the police telling us—that there was a downward trend in offending.

In our plans and laws, we worked hard to strengthen our response to youth crime, particularly for repeat serious offenders. We introduced breach of bail conditions as an offence. We made it more difficult for serious repeat offenders to get bail by expanding the list of offences with the presumption against bail. We introduced harsher maximum penalties for unlawful use of a motor vehicle offences if the person is armed, uses violence or where the offending is spread on social media.



We extended the maximum term of a conditional release order from three to six months, allowing additional supervision and rehabilitative programs to be undertaken. We also introduced a fast-track sentencing program in Brisbane, Townsville, Southport and Cairns to ensure young people spent less time on remand and more time serving their sentences.


We provided additional police funding to conduct extra high-visibility police patrols in areas of concern, including public spaces and residential areas. We introduced Youth Co-Responder Teams made up of police and youth justice workers who patrol the streets together to improve community safety.

We also introduced new laws to ban the sale of knives and other items to minors which further supported Jack's Law, the nation-leading legislation that authorises police wandering operations. When I last spoke in here on that, over 700 weapons had been taken off the streets, I do believe, and out of the shopping centres because of the wandering powers that we introduced.

What we do know is what makes Queensland safer. What will make Queensland safer? Supporting the family programs, the intervention and diversion programs that are already there. I spoke of this previously. The best gold standard program that we have in my area is Skilling Queenslanders for Work. It is crucial that funding be kept up for it. In our area, it created 80 community driven training programs, trained 3,300 people and put 2,200 people into work. That is 2,200 families that now have stability and income. I have seen that it changes the lives of not only young people and the people going through that program, but all their family around them.

One of the other things I want to point out as well is the very successful YAMBI program—I have talked about it before—run by Younity, a long-term community corporation. That is the key: having community corporations or organisations that can take on the burden of running these programs. They have run this with Youth Justice for years. It is successful. It includes intense engagement and case management for young people who have already been in the youth justice system.

These programs are there. They are already gold standard. We do want to make sure that Queenslanders feel safe, but the LNP's approach in this bill is flawed and rushed. When the laws do not reduce victim numbers, the LNP, as we heard earlier from the member for Gladstone, have asked public servants to find a different way of reporting the data. There is no investment in police, no extra court resources, no additional custodial capacity and no real intention from the LNP to make the community safer with funding to support our frontline services.

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (10.29 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024. My contribution tonight is unlike so many of my contributions on this topic over the years. Those past contributions have been built on frustration. They have been built on frustration with a government that simply was not listening to victims and was not addressing the community's concern. My community is no different to so many other communities around Queensland. Tonight, as I rise to speak to this bill, it is satisfying to know that the Crisafulli government is finally taking steps, calmly and methodically, to address some of the community safety concerns that have ravaged so many communities across Queensland.

Listening to so many of the first speeches from our outstanding new members of parliament has rammed home for me how important this issue is to so many people around Queensland. They have been outstanding first speeches. It is an absolute credit to all of our new members of parliament. Of course, the speech of the former shadow attorney-general—now the health minister—was pretty good, too. I reflect on the most powerful speech of all: that of the member for Capalaba. There is barely a word to describe the advocacy of the member for Capalaba. We welcome him here. Across the board, so many of the new members of parliament who have spoken—the members for Thuringowa, Townsville, Maryborough, Mundingburra, Hervey Bay, Mackay, Redlands and Pumicestone—I am not going to go through everyone—

**A government member:** There are a lot!

**Mr JANETZKI:** There are a lot. There are so many, but what is obvious is that there was a common theme for each one of our new members of parliament. Community safety and fighting for their community bonded each one of them. The home that I love so much is absolutely no different.

I think back to the times over the last couple of years when I have spoken in this House in utter frustration that a government had failed. I spent three years as shadow attorney-general and I recall so many times speaking in this House about those opposite and their attempts. I think this is the second

time the shadow youth justice minister has been recycled. She was moved on once, failed elsewhere, came back at the start of the 2023 to be the youth justice minister and is now the shadow youth justice minister.

I think of the failures. I think about 17-year-olds who went in the youth justice system without any modelling. I remember that the Police Union chief at the time said there was more planning for a McDonald's store than there was when the former government brought 17-year-olds into the youth justice system. Then you had the breach-of-bail laws constantly being changed. You had police resourcing targets missed—1,127 fewer police than were promised at the 2020 election by those opposite. Does anyone remember bail houses? That was an outrageous failure. It was going to cost \$70 million and the recidivism rate was at 90 per cent, if I recall correctly. Every single time those opposite in government tried to do something, they had not thought through the consequences. They had not done the modelling. They had not done the work.

**Mr Minnikin:** Thought bubbles!

**Mr JANETZKI:** It was thought bubbles. I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth. It was never a clear, coherent, calm and methodical approach. Youth justice moved between departments five times. The youth justice minister whom I referred to who had been recycled gave the most expensive interview in Australian television history—an interview on *Four Corners* that ended up costing the then government \$500 million.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** No, there was no Walkley. What a contrast to today. I acknowledge the contribution of both of those shadow ministers when we were in opposition who are now ministers in government—the youth justice minister and the child safety minister—the Attorney-General and the police minister.

The work that we did in opposition has now been brought to fruition in this bill. It is a comprehensive bill that has been worked on closely. It has been driven by listening to victims. I look at the key changes. Of course there is Adult Crime, Adult Time. There is also the prioritisation of victims' rights and changes to sentencing, youth justice reforms, media and victim access—all driven by putting the victim first rather than the perpetrator.

I will speak personally on behalf of my community because my community has suffered as much as any other. You would never have thought that Toowoomba would become the centre of a youth crime crisis, but that is exactly what has happened over the last few years. We have had 10,000 offences in five years for children between aged 10 and 17 years. One youth offender racked up 114 charged offences. We had the death on the main street of our city of Robert Brown. The premier at the time would not come and face a public forum in our city—failure of leadership. I recall speaking to the opposition leader at the time. I said, 'What would you have done?' The now Premier said that he would have come and talked to the people. That shows the character of the Premier we have and it shows the weakness and indecision of those opposite that was on display for so long on this issue—

**A government member:** And is now.

**Mr JANETZKI:** And is now—in their equivocation and in their criticisms tonight and over the last couple of days. It is on display again now.


I remember there was one six-week period when in my electorate pretty much all I did was to meet with victims of crime. I will read their names because I remember them and I have written them down: Ken, Daniel, Sarah, Vicky, Ashley, Kate, George, Andrew, Emily, Miles, Vicki, Greg, Jan and Ann-Marie. People were coming into my office wanting to share their concern. I remember at the time speaking about this one incident of young children in their bedrooms while young offenders were trying to knock down the front door, screaming, 'Give us your keys. Give us your keys.' The children who were barricaded in their bedrooms thought these offenders were yelling out, 'Give us your kids. Give us your kids.' I remember the elderly couple who came to see me who would stand guard. One would stay awake while the other would sleep. Young children would have baseball bats under their beds and were seeing psychologists because of the trauma. All the while, those opposite butchered the youth crime laws in our state. They failed to act and they failed to listen to the victims of crime.

**Mr Crandon:** They were in denial.

**Mr JANETZKI:** They were in denial. The issues surrounding crime are complex and that is why I am delighted that the work of the youth justice minister is sending a clear message; we have to make it absolutely clear that there are consequences for actions and we will prioritise the rights of victims

over those of the perpetrators but there is also a place for early intervention and at-risk intervention. That is why we have such a comprehensive strategy to address this problem, and that was rolled out across the election campaign.

I say to the people of my community that our new government of which I am honoured to be a part, will not just change the law to make our community safer; we will invest in the future of our young children for a better Queensland.

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (10.40 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024. Today I stand to represent the voices of Central Queensland, in particular the communities of Rockhampton and Gracemere. I have heard loud and clear their call to government for restoration of consequences for actions and to bring assurance that through adequate sentencing, perpetrators of crime will be dissuaded from repeat offending.

For over 400 days I have immersed myself in connecting with members of my community: doorknocking, phone canvassing, holding pop-up offices and attending myriad community events. The question I asked was, 'What is your No. 1 concern? What do you want the government to change?' The answer was, 'Do something about crime and make our community safer.' I have heard from residents of all ages who are fearful for their safety. They lock themselves in their homes like prisoners for their own safety. Seniors, often living on their own, would rather close all of the windows and put a dowel across the window sill than allow the cool breeze to flow through their home and bring relief from the stifling heat of Central Queensland. This measure alone carries risks, for example, in the event of a fire.

The continued escalation of anxiety being experienced across our community is further contributing to the decline in mental health and increased demands on health services. I have residents like Nicole, whose burly teenage son had to seek mental health treatment due to the fear created subsequent to a home invasion when the police said in front of him, 'Because they've got your keys now, they'll probably be back.' Then there was Chris, who after chasing and catching a perpetrator, watched on as the perpetrator walked away from court having had over 80 previous charges against him. Then there was Brad, who watched helplessly from work as his CCTV alert showed five masked perpetrators enter his home early in the morning while his wife was asleep and his daughter was in the shower. He was powerless to stop this invasion, which has haunted them. It has brought strain on the family and the business as once was not enough for these perpetrators; they came back a few months later.

It is not just residential properties falling victim to these repeat serious offenders; it is also our local business owners. I speak of business owners like Vishal, a motor vehicle repairer who has endured five acts of crime against his business in the last 12 months. This has resulted in over \$250,000 in damages as well as a decline in business due to customers now not feeling safe to entrust their vehicles to him. There have also been impacts to his staff and to add final insult, due to the repeated claims, Vishal's business no longer qualifies for insurance against this continued assault on his business by the would-be offenders. In fact, Vishal's business was again the subject of damages just two days ago. Vishal's frustration at viewing the CCTV footage over and over—the same faces, the same repeat offenders—cannot be measured. At the same time he watches the business he has fought so hard for struggle while there are no consequences for those who have caused his predicament.


Abandoned, damaged, stolen cars are strewn through our community with 'police aware' stickers across the smashed windscreens—windscreens of cars that are the owners' primary form of transport. They are now faced with days and sometimes weeks of replacing keys and cards. They also have to find a new way to get to work to earn the money to pay for all of these new and unexpected expenses forced on them by the nonchalant thief, who has no care for the consequences they have brought upon the owner, nor do they have any fear of consequences from the law and justice system as it currently stands. They were laws that were watered down deliberately by the previous Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government. The existing laws have bred a generation of untouchables and they know it.

I am here to represent the voices of our business owners and residents alike who have voted for the Making Queensland Safer Laws. This bill will restore hope to my community—hope that the government of the day are willing to listen and to follow through on setting boundaries and establishing consequences for actions that reflect the community's expectations. I am proud to be a part of the Crisafulli-led government that have emphasised the importance of, and our commitment to, significant investment in early intervention and prevention initiatives that will turn the tide on youth crime, leading children away from a life of crime. I assure the member for Bancroft that we, in fact, do care for the young offender as well.

The communities of Rockhampton and Gracemere will host one of nine Regional Reset programs that will provide 24/7 intensive support for at-risk young people who require a higher level of care than community-based programs can provide. Rockhampton will also host one of our four crime prevention schools that will re-engage students who have fallen out of mainstream schooling and are assessed to be at a risk of falling into crime. I am also very pleased to support Circuit Breaker Sentencing, a three- to six-month court ordered rehabilitation program as an alternative to detention. Two programs can cater for up to 60 young people at any one time.

Data has revealed that youth offenders are offending more violently, with an 8.4 per cent increase in the violence of youth offenders and the number of repeat offenders on an average day having grown by 58 per cent. Our communities across Queensland, including Rockhampton and Gracemere, have voted for justice for victims and our Crisafulli-led LNP government will deliver. As promised, the Making Queensland Safer Bill was introduced in response to that call.

I appeal to the House to support these voices from our communities and the victims of crime, who are sick and tired of the damage being done to property and to lives. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (10.48 pm): I rise to speak on this bill in support of some elements and to express concern on others. The positives include ones identified in the youth justice inquiry such as that courts must consider the full offender history when sentencing; that in the principles of sentencing, victims be given primary consideration—that is welcomed—and that magistrates will be required, instead of having the ability to refuse, to allow victims and their families into Childrens Court. Now I will turn to some concerns.

There was evidence during the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee inquiry—and that is going back to sometime in April—that short sentences, for example three months, do not provide time to effectively rehabilitate, hence, recommendation 36 for a one-year transition that was of a residential nature with either education or work training after release. It is a positive that government has committed to this. However, there was no questioning at hearings by the then opposition members of that committee, including the newly appointed minister, regarding Adult Crime, Adult Time or a recommendation for it.

That is important because it would have given the opportunity, during that seven-month inquiry, to investigate such an undertaking and what it could or could not achieve to create safer communities. In the current rush, any level of appropriate scrutiny, community feedback or investigation has been lost. Queenslanders deserve to be safe now and into the future and victims definitely must be prioritised. They also deserve facts. Statistics show that detention increases criminality and recidivism, with around 90 per cent of youths reoffending within a year after incarceration. It also decreases opportunity to rehabilitate and contribute to society. There is no evidence that these repeat offenders, including with reduced mental capacity due to fetal alcohol syndrome, consider detention or the length of a sentence when committing a crime; hence, increasing incarceration times would not be a deterrent.

As seen by the committee report, research on the effects of longer detention on youth recidivism is not found. What has been put forward by the department is a report from overseas by a university researcher 15 years ago showing that juvenile incarceration—and I think the time was something like 16 to 36 weeks or something similar in Washington state—had recidivism rates 37 per cent lower than other interventions. However, there are no details on what the interventions were. Another report from 2021 showed a recidivism rate 25 per cent lower, but yet again there were no details. Neither tell us anything about extending incarceration or adult time for adult crime nor how the 13 per cent mentioned in that report who did not reoffend can be considered a successful benchmark to try to attain. We want much more than that.

There is a 2013 study from the US on the automatic transfer of young people from the juvenile justice system to the adult justice system for those who commit serious crimes—adult time for adult crime, if you like. They reported that those removed to the adult system had higher recidivism rates than those who stayed in the juvenile system. That is why across the world countries adopted youth detentions that are rehabilitative and retain connection to their communities, with the data demonstrating the success of these and much lower recidivism statistics than we have, and ours are incredibly high.

This is important. Are we not as MPs and government supposed to make evidence-based decisions? During that youth justice inquiry we saw and heard the unacceptable trauma to our communities from these repeat offenders. The fact that they were allowed back into communities without appropriate long-term rehabilitation, transitions or monitoring was a key failing identified, and

Queenslanders understandably had the right to be angry. However, there were solutions put forward during that inquiry. The fact that there has been no response to those, including to Keith Hamburger's detention model, from the new government is really disappointing. The costs, efforts and voices of Queenslanders during that inquiry—from the victims that we heard from to the frontliners—are being lost in this rush.

Here is a question: with detention as a last resort standard for adults and youth in Australia and globally, what does a bill that abolishes it put in its place or actually do? During the inquiry it was never ascertained as to its effect on court determinations. Countries that have the death penalty, such as the United States, have higher rates of homicide per 100,000 population compared to Australia, demonstrating that harsher penalties do not stop offending when the reasons for offending remain, and those reasons need to be addressed in Queensland. We have repeat offenders with multiple comorbidities including brain damage. Some 53 per cent have experienced domestic violence, 17 per cent have an intellectual disability and 33 per cent have a mental or behavioural disorder, with many victims themselves. No amount of incarceration will end their offending or reasons for it and they will cycle through our prisons, offending in-between, at a cost greater than the options that were put forward during that inquiry.


The Productivity Commission reports that it costs \$1,800 a day or \$657,000 a year which would mean that a seven-year sentence for a 12-year-old would cost around \$5 million, and that is with a 90 per cent chance that they will reoffend within 12 months. Longer incarceration with long-term rehabilitation may decrease that percentage. However, with overflowing detention centres and without significant investment in options that the Katter party as well as communities in our north put forward, what is the reality? Who would employ a 21-year-old who has spent half of their life incarcerated? The overflow to adult prisons will add to the overcrowding already there, and we have heard that many miss out on work skills programs due to this.

It was also identified during estimates that any rehabilitation currently funded by the department of youth justice ends when a youth transitions into adult prisons. When adults who have spent only a year—and I have spoken to them—relay how they would be better going back to prison, that demonstrates how flawed our systems are. On release, with nothing and nowhere to go, they are provided \$100. No wonder 50 per cent of our adults reoffend quickly. I appreciate that the minister and Attorney-General are providing reassurances that rehabilitation failings will be addressed. However, we are considering a bill that will increase time in both adult and juvenile detention without any clear plan and reassurances. We are making a decision without clarity or understanding of the ramifications, including that these changes may actually increase the velocity and intensity of offending on release, not reduce it.

There are a lot of unknowns. Our role as MPs is to implement legislation to remove those who present a danger as well as rehabilitate and transition them back when safe to do so. For those who may always be a danger, we need to speak openly about options instead of the silence that surrounds this topic. As I said in my chair's foreword during the YJ inquiry, there needs to be consequences for actions and appropriate rehabilitation that is of a duration that is effective for the offender as well as for their siblings and the environment that led to the offending in the first place. The reasons need to be removed.

There also needs to be evidence-based decision-making, not decisions that are ad hoc and lacking appropriate scrutiny and consultation. We need a commitment to continue implementing all recommendations from that youth justice inquiry. This includes ending the statistical debates that continue to this day by implementing recommendation 60 and targeting immediately the 300 to 400 repeat offenders who have been identified in the serious repeat offender index before they offend again, not waiting until they do. We can do this by mandating interventions of long-term residential rehabilitation and lowering the threshold for declaration.

During that seven-month youth justice inquiry as well as in current submissions we heard what Queenslanders sought—for repeat offenders to be removed from their communities to a secure setting that provides the best chance to rehabilitate, to learn and work and to not reoffend on release. Detention as it currently is does not provide that, and nor do these amendments. However, no doubt after this bill is passed there will be much back patting because we can say that we did something. However, that is not anywhere near good enough. We all owe much better to our communities and to every victim, including victims of the future, who all must be prioritised.

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (10.57 pm): Tonight I rise to speak about what will be looked back on as a transformative moment for our state—the debate and passage of the Making Queensland Safer Bill. This bill reflects our steadfast

commitment to Queenslanders to have these laws in place by Christmas. It underscores the urgent need for decisive action to address the youth crime crisis that has plagued our communities for nearly a decade.

When we asked Queenslanders for their support during the election, we promised to restore law and order, prioritise victims' rights over the rights of offenders and ensure community safety, and this bill honours that promise. The bill aims to hold young offenders who commit offences, particularly serious offences, to account by ensuring that courts have primary regard to the impact of youth offending on victims and can impose appropriate penalties that meet community expectations. Under the former Miles-Palaszczuk government youth justice laws were weakened, creating a generation of offenders who felt untouchable. Serious repeat offenders were allowed to escape adequate punishment, leaving communities in fear.

As the member for Mudgeeraba, the largest electorate on the Gold Coast, I can confidently state that youth crime is the most significant concern amongst my constituents. In the months leading up to the recent state election I engaged in numerous discussions with residents. Time and time again they expressed their worries and posed the same fundamental question: 'So, Ros, how are we going to restore respect among our youths?' Over many years we have had offences in the Mudgeeraba electorate. For quite a period of time youth crime was mainly happening on the eastern side of the motorway with people coming to the Robina station because it was much easier to steal a car in places like Mermaid Waters and Robina than it was to cross the motorway and walk up a steep hill in Tallai and try to steal a car there. That has all changed and we now have offences such as stealing cars from one end of my electorate to the other.

In 2021, Belinda from the Mudgeeraba Redbacks watched live on social media as her car was trashed. I asked the youth justice minister at the time how could this possibly be happening. Belinda wanted answers. Her son actually tracked down the youth criminal on Instagram and asked her why she did what she did to his mother's car. What that young girl, who had had 20 previous charges, said to him was, 'I didn't steal it. I just took it for a spin.' That was Belinda's treasured car and she watched it being trashed on social media all the way from Merrimac through to the Bunnings car park at Robina where they found it absolutely gutted.

Only a couple of weeks ago youths took a block and tackle to a wrought iron gate in Tallai. They not only pulled the gate off, they actually pulled the brick pillars off as well to steal the car. In my electorate, I have had two fatals with youths on motorised bikes and I have had one near-fatal. These concerns reflect the broader issues of safety where you live and the need for effective strategies to overcome and address youth behaviour. Many residents in Mudgeeraba are deeply invested in finding solutions that not only deter youth crime but also foster a sense of responsibility and respect within our young people. New figures show that the Gold Coast has the fourth highest number of offences committed by young people in the state. Between January and November of this year there were over 5,000 such offences. It is understandable that this was the No. 1 issue voters wanted to discuss. Every day Gold Coasters experience home invasions or have their property stolen. Businesses are being broken into, cars taken and driven dangerously causing harm to innocent bystanders. These incidents frequently appear on the nightly news leading the residents of Mudgeeraba to believe that they too will become victims of youth crime.

Across the state the numbers paint a bleak picture: a 98 per cent increase in youth crime over the past decade; 46,130 proven offences by young people last financial year alone; a staggering 51 per cent rise over the last five years; and in relation to victims, over 289,000 in 2022-23, a 14 per cent increase from the previous year. Under Labor the system was failing Queenslanders, it was failing victims and it was failing the young offenders themselves. This bill delivers the tough reforms Queenslanders demanded. It ensures accountability for offenders while balancing early intervention and rehabilitation.

Let me highlight some of the key provisions. In relation to Adult Crime, Adult Time, youths committing serious offences such as murder, manslaughter and grievous bodily harm will face the same penalties as adults. For example, mandatory life detention for murder will now include a non-parole period of 20 years. These are serious consequences for serious crimes. I note that this provision was welcomed by the QPS, with the QPU's submission to the committee's process noting that, despite numerous police enforcement strategies, motor vehicle theft remains a major issue for the Queensland community.

The Adult Crime, Adult Time framework is welcomed by the QPU. For too long the system has prioritised offenders over victims. The bill amends the Youth Justice Act to ensure that courts give primary regard to the impact of offences on victims. This means that the sentencing court will have to


give greater regard to the impact on the victim over other factors when determining the appropriate sentence. Additionally, victims and their families will no longer need to apply to stay informed about an offender's custody status. An opt-out model will ensure they remain updated automatically. Both the QPU and Voice for Victims noted their support for this provision during the consideration of this bill by the committee with Voice for Victims reaffirming their support for the rights of victims being central to decisions regarding sentencing for young offenders.

In relation to transparency in the justice system, the media will now be allowed to cover Childrens Court proceedings, enhancing transparency. Families of victims will also have guaranteed access to criminal proceedings. When it comes to sentencing reforms, courts will be empowered to review an offender's full criminal history, including juvenile records from the past five years, ensuring patterns of offending are adequately addressed. The principle of detention as a last resort will be removed, emphasising community safety. In relation to youth justice reforms, detainees will be transferred to adult custody upon turning 18, aligning the system with public expectations.

While tough measures are necessary, we also recognise the importance of early intervention to prevent youth crime and that is why this government is investing significantly in programs such as \$175 million through our Staying on Track program, which provides 12 months of post release support where a non-government organisation will work with young people while they are in a youth detention centre, bridging the transition to community, offering stability and a pathway to education and employment over the year after release. The amount of \$50 million will go towards our Regional Reset program with nine early intervention residential programs to provide 24/7 intensive support for at-risk young people who require a higher level of care than some community-based programs can provide. These will be short-stay—one to three-week—programs. A young person can be referred to the service from school, police, Child Safety or parents. There will be \$830 million for Circuit Breaker Sentencing, a three- to six-month rehabilitation-focused alternative to detention. There will be \$100 million for gold standard early intervention which will support community-led initiatives focusing on reducing crime, boosting education, training and/or employment, include a \$50 million kick-starter program to fund new ideas from Australia and internationally and \$50 million to expand proven initiatives with key performance indicators and regular reporting. These initiatives reflect our beliefs that prevention is as vital as appropriate penalties.

Queenslanders deserve to feel safe in their homes, workplaces and communities, but today, sadly, many do not. Victims are tired of watching repeat offenders walk free only to re-offend. They are tired of being an afterthought in a system that should protect them. It is not just victims who have been let down by Labor, our police have been let down time and time again by the former Labor government. Under Labor we saw police officers leaving in record numbers, disillusioned by the catch and release program created by the former government's weak youth justice laws. Police have put significant resources and funding into fighting Labor's youth crime crisis and in return they wanted a government that supported them by giving them the tools they needed to keep the community safe. That is what the Crisafulli NNP government is doing with this bill. The Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024 will see an end to police officers trying to do their job with one hand tied behind their back. The bill sends a clear message: if you commit an adult crime you will face adult time. We make no apologies for prioritising the rights of victims over offenders and we make no apologies for taking a stand against the youth crime crisis. These laws are tough on crime and they are necessary. Queenslanders have backed them and now it is time to act.

To those who oppose these changes I ask, 'How many more victims must we see? How many more families must endure heartache?' The Making Queensland Safer Bill is a pivotal step towards a safer, better Queensland. It addresses all the failures of the past. Unlike those opposite, we do not think crime is a media beat-up; unlike those opposite, we believe in consequences for action; and unlike those opposite we will prioritise the rights of victims over the rights of youth criminals. With these reforms we say to victims, 'We hear you, we support you and we will fight for you.' To offenders we say, 'The era of leniency is over', and to Queenslanders we say, 'Your safety is our unwavering priority.' I commend this bill to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (11.07 pm): I rise to address the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024. In contributing to this debate I am reminded of a local mother whose children were left traumatised following a break and enter offence by young criminals. I am also thinking of the local small businesses across Chapel Hill and Kenmore whose shopfronts were smashed and small businesses who had their goods stolen. I am also thinking of the local tradie whose work vehicle, which was parked at his home, was broken into and thousands of dollars worth of tools stolen.

This bill is more than legislation; it represents a critical step in fulfilling the promise that a Liberal National Party made to the people of Queensland to restore safety to our communities and uphold the rights of victims over the rights of offenders. As much as the Labor state opposition might try to deny it, this commitment was overwhelmingly endorsed by Queenslanders at the last state election. The Liberal National Party has a strong mandate to pass these laws and pass them this week. Queenslanders called for urgent action to tackle the youth crime epidemic which has plagued our state for far too long. They demanded laws that reflect their expectations, laws that protect their families and laws that restore confidence in the justice system. That is precisely what this legislation delivers.

This legislation not only demonstrates the Crisafulli LNP state government's commitment to community safety, but also lays bare the abysmal track record of the Labor Party when it comes to law and order and community safety. For a decade Labor ignored the rising tide of youth crime, ignoring the voices of victims and allowing youth offenders to run rampant across our state. The result has been communities living in fear.

Under the former Miles state Labor government, serious repeat youth offenders avoided adequate punishment, leaving families and communities at the mercy of individuals who should have been held accountable. Queenslanders deserve better than this. They deserve to feel safe in their homes, workplaces and communities. However, in too many parts of our state that has simply not been the reality.

The Liberal National Party state government, with the full endorsement of the people of Queensland, refuses to accept Labor's status quo. The Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024 is a comprehensive, tough and fair response to the challenges our communities face. It puts the rights of victims above the rights of offenders and gives the judiciary greater direction to impose penalties that meet community expectations. This bill introduces key changes that address the failings of the past. When sentencing, courts will now have the ability to consider an offender's complete criminal history, enabling a more accurate assessment of patterns of offending. No longer will repeat offenders escape the consequences of their actions simply because of procedural failings.

Additionally, the Liberal National Party's opening up of the Childrens Court to allow victims, their families and the media more transparency throughout the judicial process is welcomed. Queenslanders told us this was desperately needed and we listened. Victims of crime have had enough of seeing youth offenders shielded from scrutiny while they are left to suffer in silence. Unlike the Labor Party, we are unwavering in our support for victims of crime and their families. These laws will ensure their voices are heard, their pain acknowledged and their rights respected.

While Queenslanders rightly called for tougher laws to keep dangerous repeat offenders off our streets, the Crisafulli LNP state government knows that prevention is just as critical as enforcement. That is why the Liberal National Party state government is committed to making significant investments in early intervention and prevention strategies to break the cycle of youth crime and, in doing so, ensure a safer future for all Queenslanders. Our approach is clear: intervene early, support rehabilitation and provide opportunities for young people to change their trajectory of a life of crime before it is too late.

We have allocated \$175 million to Staying on Track, a program providing 12-month post-detention release support. This initiative partners young people with non-government organisations, bridging their transition from youth detention centres to community life and offering stability, education and employment opportunities. For those who need intensive care, we are investing \$50 million in nine Regional Reset programs across Queensland. These short-stay residential programs offer 24/7 support for at-risk youth referred by schools, police, Child Safety or parents. Our \$80 million Circuit Breaker Sentencing initiative offers three- to six-month rehabilitation programs as an alternative to detention, supporting up to 60 young people at a time and focusing on meaningful rehabilitation.

Additionally, we are investing \$100 million in community-led initiatives, with \$50 million to fund innovative ideas and another \$50 million to expand proven strategies. Of course, we know that education remains key when we are discussing prevention and rehabilitation. That is why we are dedicating \$40 million to two youth justice schools to divert young offenders from crime and \$40 million to four early intervention schools to re-engage 900 students who have fallen out of mainstream education and who are at risk. These programs are more than numbers. They represent hope, opportunity and a commitment to addressing the root causes of crime. By investing in prevention, we are investing in the future of our youth and the safety of our communities.

I want to contrast the decisive, strong and considered approach of this LNP state government with the Labor Party's track record: a decade of complacency, broken promises and policies that put offenders' rights above community safety. The Labor state opposition is desperate, disorganised and



utterly disconnected from the realities faced by everyday Queenslanders. They have spent 10 years ignoring the voices of victims. They failed to act when they had the chance and now they want to obstruct the progress that we are trying to make. The Labor Party has never been committed to community safety, never prioritised the rights of victims and never delivered laws to address serious crime effectively. Their record is one of abject failure and Queenslanders know it.

Our government's approach is different. We are taking decisive action because Queenslanders want strong, effective laws that reflect their expectations and deliver results. They are sick and tired of seeing offenders treated with leniency while victims are left to pick up the pieces. This legislation is about restoring faith in the justice system, protecting our most vulnerable and ensuring a brighter, safer future for all Queenslanders.


Under the former Palaszczuk-Miles state Labor government, Labor's desperate attempts to manipulate and misinform Queenslanders on the realities of the youth crime crisis knew no bounds. This was evident even throughout the recent 2024 state election campaign and, in particular, the campaign in the electorate of Moggill. On 9 October, whilst participating in a local candidate debate in which the Greens candidate did not participate, local residents were shocked when Labor's candidate for Moggill made the breathtaking statement—

There needs to be some honesty, and that's not what we are seeing. Overall in Queensland, we are at near-record low rates of youth crime.

Such a misinformed and grossly false statement shows why the Labor candidate was never a serious or genuine contender to be an elected representative in the Queensland parliament. It also shows why Labor's vote in Moggill, like much of the rest of Queensland, went backwards. For the benefit of local residents, Queenslanders and members of the Labor opposition, I will provide the honesty that the Labor candidate for Moggill tried to avoid.

At every possible opportunity, former Labor ministers, Labor members and Labor candidates repeatedly told Queenslanders, including the media, that youth crime was decreasing. They said that knowing full well, and all along, that it was actually increasing. Since the 2024 state election, the incoming briefs provided to the Crisafulli LNP state government have exposed the inescapable truth that the former Labor government sought to deny Queenslanders. Under the former Labor government, in the past financial year there were over 46,100 finalised proven offences by young people. That represents a 12 per cent increase in the past year, a 51 per cent increase in the past five years and a 98 per cent increase over the past 10 years, with an additional almost 23,000 offences. More disturbingly, already this year there have been more than 50,000 offences committed by youth offenders. These are the facts.

In concluding my contribution today, I want all members of the Labor opposition and their supporters to know this: your decade of failure is over. The people of Queensland have entrusted the Crisafulli LNP state government with the responsibility of fixing the mess that Labor has left behind and we will not let Queenslanders down. This legislation is evidence of that commitment. It is strong, it is fair and it is urgently needed. Unlike the Labor members for Miller, Bulimba and Waterford, who have no interest or concern in preventing youth crime or ensuring community safety, as evidenced by their former state Labor government's actions, the Liberal National Party will restore confidence in our justice system. As such, I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (11.16 pm): Before I begin, I want to acknowledge all victims of crime, especially those who live in regional communities. Being from Bundaberg, I represent a regional community and I have lived in regional communities such as Maryborough and Hervey Bay. Therefore, I understand that when crimes occur, especially serious crimes that involve death, the impacts are felt by all members of the community. All of the community hurts in that moment. I will come to an example of that later in my contribution.

As much as there is some give and take on all sides of the House at the moment, I think every single speaker has acknowledged that one victim is one victim too many. That is important. We know that during the address-in-reply speeches we need to ensure that we have a good standard of debate and show respect for one another. I think that, as we move forward with the rest of this debate, it is important that we acknowledge that we all know that too many victims have been hurt and that communities are still hurting because of crime.

I acknowledge that this bill addresses young people in vulnerable states, young people in complex states and young people who have been betrayed and hurt by the people who are meant to love them. It addresses young people who may have been victims and in acts of desperation, states of mental disrepair or sometimes through inebriation have acted in ways that are wrong and inappropriate

for our communities. If young people commit serious crimes then it is appropriate that they face serious consequences. We acknowledge that. We understand that. However, we cannot just lock up young people. As parliamentarians, we have to provide a better environment for young people to grow up in. We have to identify when children are at risk because they have been betrayed in their own households.

I also believe it is important that we acknowledge our police and the tremendous work that our police do, not just in identifying who committed a crime but in trying to prevent crime, especially youth crime. Our police liaison officers in Bundaberg do an amazing job. They go to the skate parks and put in programs. To give some insight into the serious, complex nature—I was at a police liaison community barbecue and there were young people at the skate park. I was with one of the senior officers and he knew all of the kids' names. One kid came up to him and was having a chat and the police officer said, 'Mate, how's your dad going?' 'No good, he's back in jail.' Back in jail—this kid was nine years old and he has grown up with the person who is meant to look after him continuously committing serious crimes and going to jail. Whilst we acknowledge that there is a mandate across the Queensland electorate for maximum sentences to be increased, we must also realise that there has to be a social mandate on all of us to recognise that there needs to be greater levels of intervention and understanding and more support for our wonderful police liaison officers right across the state.

I want to give an insight into the complexity of this matter. One key part of this bill really does concern me—

... remove the principles of detention as a last resort and that a noncustodial order is better than detention in promoting a child's ability to reintegrate into the community.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Vote against it and sit down.

**Mr SMITH:** I am being respectful to the debate.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr):** Members, let's listen to everybody tonight. We have already had this conversation. Thank you.

**Mr SMITH:** Thank you. I appreciate that. These are real stories of perpetrators and victims who have died. I am just foreshadowing that because I think it would be quite inappropriate if a member were to interject. I am trying to say this with seriousness. I will give two examples of 13-year-olds.

I have told this story before and it is not before the courts. At a high school that I was teaching at, the police came down with the deputy principal and a 13-year-old in my class was asked to reveal the contents of his backpack. He refused to reveal the contents. In fact, he lashed out against the police officer and the police officer and assistant police officer and the deputy principal had to tackle this 13-year-old to the ground. They suspected he was selling drugs in the school grounds. It turns out that, yes, he was dealing drugs, but his dad was the supplier of the drugs. His dad was forcing him to deal drugs in the school and, if he did not come home with an empty bag, he would be beaten. He was betrayed by the person who was meant to love him, care for him and show him how to live in this world.

He went through a restorative process and he was back in school by the end of that term and he was one of my favourite students to teach for the rest of that year. How good is it, though, that there was a principle of detention as a last resort to protect him and that it was considered that a non-custodial order was better than detention for the crimes that he had committed. Now, I will go to the other extreme of the 13-year-olds.

**Mrs Frecklington:** But it is not one of the prescribed offences, Member. It's drugs.

**Mr SMITH:** If it is removed from the Youth Justice Act principles, it is a consideration during sentencing, but it is good to know that the Attorney-General is not across it. The other story is that of the 13-year-old who was sentenced last week for taking the lives of three innocent young women in Maryborough. I taught one of those victims in two grades of school. I know the family and friends of another victim who lost their life in that incident.

On that weekend, I went down to Maryborough and I sat in the former member for Maryborough's office. Later on at night, when the media had left the site, one of the young victims' former fellow students and I went and laid flowers at the site. It tore that town apart. Personally, I reflect on that and I wonder if releasing that young person in 2026 is appropriate. I do. That talks to the serious nature and the complexities that we are facing here. No way in the world should that first 13-year-old be denied the consideration of detention as a last resort. In no way should a non-custodial order be a better option than detention. That is why the opposition put forward amendments that were suitable—

**Mrs Frecklington:** Vote against the bill and sit down.

**Mr SMITH:** Here we are talking about how families of victims are being torn apart and Queensland's worst ever Attorney-General is trying to interject and yell and disrespect their memory.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask the member to withdraw.


**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bundaberg, the member for Nanango has taken offence. Please withdraw.

**Mr SMITH:** I withdraw. What we do know is that those opposite, through their Premier, have said that they believe that this bill in its entirety will bring down victim numbers.

**A government member:** Yes, it will.

**Mr SMITH:** They are here saying, 'Yes, it will.' Here we are—the Premier, when he was the opposition leader, during the debate said that victim numbers will fall. In 2028, if victim numbers across the board do not drop, this entire government have said that they should be rejected by the people of Queensland. They have set their mandate. Every single victim number will drop, according to this government over there. That is what they are saying so we will keep the record. Also, if in 12 months time victim numbers across the board have not dropped, I will be looking forward to the Premier resigning, and I am sure that we are all looking forward to the Jarrod Bleijie government. That will be fantastic.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (11.26 pm): I too rise to make a contribution to the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024. I too would like to place on the record, like many members have done in this debate thus far, and acknowledge the fine advocacy work both before his time as an MP and now during his time as an MP of the member for Capalaba, Russell Field. I had the privilege of doing a fundraiser for Russell several months ago where I was pretty much exposed to his real story in the raw. I did a whip-round and about another 20 people and I do not think there was a dry eye in the house.

To the member for Capalaba: you have actually stood by your convictions for months and months, pounding the pavement with your great team; you have given a great inaugural speech; and you have also not adhered to your roster. I observe lots in this chamber and I have observed the member for Capalaba, whose roster has expired. He has not left the chamber. He is that invested in doing the right thing for Queenslanders. Sir, I applaud you, through the chair.

I would like to make this contribution more from the heart tonight. I could go through the things that we will do when this bill is actually passed. I will just pick up those key elements for the record. The key elements of the bill include Adult Crime, Adult Time, as we well know; a prioritisation of victims' rights; the changes to sentencing; the youth justice reforms; and media and victim access.

What I would really like to do in the remainder of my contribution is speak of my journey with the people that I represent in Chatsworth—the things that have moved me over the last several years. I can distinctly recall sitting in that chair over there in 2016 when these laws were watered down. I know that, back then, I was warned, as I normally am, by the Speaker of the day for interjecting and saying, 'You will rue these watered down changes. They will come back to haunt you. It may not be next year and it may not be in two years, but, mark my words, they will come back to bite.'

Not only did they bite the ALP; unfortunately, they have bitten pretty much those the length and breadth of Queensland. There are two primary motivators in life. One is fear and one is greed. I can honestly say, hand on heart, from the hours and hours I have spent at mobile offices engaging with my Chatsworth residents, that I have never before felt the level of palpable fear in the electorate that I am proud to serve that I have felt in the last three or four years. People are scared to death. I have never seen that level of fear in all of my years of serving.

Around 12 months ago I conducted my own field test to get a pulse or gauge in the community. Here is what I did. My electorate office is opposite Westfield Carindale. There is a prominent national sporting goods retailer contained therein. I walked over there during a lunchbreak and said I would like to buy a baseball bat. I was told at that store, 'I'm sorry, sir, we are out of baseball bats.' I was not deterred. I have told this story in the past.

I then drove to their other store at Cannon Hill. I again walked in asked, 'May I buy a baseball bat?' only to be told yet again, 'We have sold out.' I said, 'To save me time, can you make sure there is a baseball bat available somewhere in the Greater Brisbane area?' There were none. I then rang someone from Queensland Baseball to find out whether there was a connection between this uplift in

baseball bats being purchased and there was not. There was a one per cent increase in memberships in the previous 18 months. Why were baseball bats sold out pretty much throughout Brisbane? The answer is fear, fear and fear.

Three years ago I held the first of at least half a dozen crime forums. They were conducted by the fine men and women of the Queensland Police Service. The first was at the Gumdale Progress Hall. It was of course free and it was booked out—60 people—in literally 60 seconds. I then upped the ante for the second, third and fourth forums and held them at the Belmont bowls club where, for fire regulations, you can have about 120 people attend. They were booked out within a day. People were wanting information but they also wanted to vent. They wanted to let people know exactly what things were like.


I will always remember a lady who was at the second forum at Belmont bowls club. She had lived in the area all of her adult life. When the strapping six-foot-two senior sergeant said to her, 'Maybe things are not quite as bad as you are thinking,' she said, 'With respect, sir, the difference now is this. For many years I was aware you would get the odd robbery around the area—no-one is delusional—but the difference now is that I am aware of people who are being threatened with a 40-centimetre machete. They are slashing first and then asking where the keys are.' The die has changed. The level of brazenness has changed.

The other example I want to put on the record is of the tradie I met from Tingalpa. He met me at the Belmont Road Shopping Village. He asked if he could see me a week later in my Chatsworth electorate office. He was built like Thor. We was six foot four and full of muscles. He probably could have had a perpetrator in one hand and crushed them. This gentleman came and saw me and within a matter of about 12 minutes was a blithering wreck. He broke down in front of me in my electorate office. Why? He was a tradie. He had Bosch tools that were stolen from the back of his ute. He had insurance to cover them. He replaced them. What happened? Two months later they were stolen again. They were stolen for a third time within nine months. He was absolutely crushed. He left the state. He is now working south of Kingscliff. He is a tradie—a guy who was built like you know what—but he was absolutely broken. He was broken by the fact that he was absolutely powerless.

The other exhibit I would like to put on the record is this. I am very proud, like many in this chamber on both sides, no doubt, that I try to help out my Meals and Wheels group and do the odd run whenever I can. I wish I could do more. I do about three or four runs per year. In my case it is the green run because it picks up most of my electorate through Carindale. Over the last seven years I have noticed something that is bordering on absurd. When I drop off meals, particularly in unit title complexes, to elderly ladies in particular, they sometimes have a PIN code to get the keys to get through the flyscreen door, the security door and the main door. In some cases for some people on the green run there are six keys to get through six different deadlocks. They are like fortresses. This is in Carindale, Tingalpa, Ransome, Wakerley, Camp Hill, Carina and Carina Heights—the area I grew up and lived in for most of my life.

About 7½ weeks ago, including the two weeks of pre-poll, the situation was absolutely undeniable. There was my Labor opponent, my Greens opponent and me strategically, as I always am, just outside the six-metre mark—the last person to have contact with people. There was dialogue. In the great Western democracy that we live in, the Labor Party candidate was doing her thing, the Greens candidate was more often than not missing in action but occasionally would be doing his thing and then they would get to me. The simple words people spoke were, 'Youth crime; it's a big issue in this area.' They would stop in their tracks. They would pivot 180 degrees and come back.

It absolutely flummoxes me, after listening to the contributions of members opposite, that many of them are in complete denial. They do not need a script. They do not need speaking points. The reality is that you feel it in your heart. You know your electorate. For years people have been screaming at the now opposition, which was over here for nine years, to do something about it. They had many years after they watered down the laws to change things, but they refused to do anything tangible. The palpable fear in the electorate, from Cape York to Coolangatta, was widespread and they paid the price.

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.37 pm): I am pleased to rise to contribute to the debate on the Making Queensland Safer Laws. It is an important debate because there is not one person in our electorates who has not been touched by the impact of the youth crime crisis or does not know somebody who has been impacted by the youth crime crisis.

When I entered this place just over four years ago, my region of Mackay and the Whitsundays had very little crime. Part of that was because of the great work of our local community organisations but also the fabric of our community. I pay tribute to the new member for Mackay, who has joined me

in this House. I congratulate him on his service as a former Queensland police officer as well as for his tireless work in crime prevention. I spoke about his contribution at length during the previous parliament. He has already made a greater contribution than his predecessor, whose failure to listen to her local community resulted in her replacement not getting elected at the recent state election. I am very pleased to see Nigel Dalton, as the member for Mackay, join me in this parliament and represent our region. I am pleased to see our many new members in this parliament, particularly the former police officers whom we seem to attract on this side of the House. They have served our community. It is interesting that those opposite criticise this side of the House when we have people with insight and lived experience of fighting on the front line to protect our community and keep our state safe.

In the four years I was the shadow minister there were three ministers for child safety, but as I stand here now as the newly appointed Minister for Child Safety I am the sixth minister in just over 10 years. This is a little bit of a memory game. The member for Waterford, the member for Bulimba and the member for Nudgee were all child safety ministers. I think their record speaks for itself with the increase in numbers in the child protection system. I will never forget the member for Barron River, who announced a residential care road map because of the challenging numbers we saw blow out under the former Labor government. Finally, there was the member for Jordan. Throughout the tenure of all of those ministers we have seen a child protection system under crisis, and that has contributed greatly to the youth crime crisis. We have seen children under child protection orders enter the youth justice system. There has been a watering down of the laws. It is a failed child safety system under enormous pressure.

It is the government's inability to respond to domestic and family violence and invest in early intervention in terms of perpetrator accountability that has led to a generation of children in crisis. Youths who are repeat recidivist offenders are undertaking violent crime. It is a sad indictment on those opposite who have led this state for almost a decade. We now know the results of the election. In this House last night and tonight I heard that those opposite were apparently out doorknocking throughout the election campaign. I do not know whose doors my colleagues on that side of the House were knocking on and what stories they were told, because on this side of the House the stories we heard were the stories of Queenslanders who were impacted because they were victims of crime. It is sad that every day when we turn on the news and open our newspapers we hear or read about someone being stabbed, someone being murdered, violent crimes undertaken in our community, vehicles stolen, innocent people being harmed and business owners on their knees because they have been broken into time and time again.

In my part of the world, Mackay and the Whitsundays, our insurance premiums are through the roof because of stolen vehicle offences and break and enters. I am a mother of teenagers who gives up my time to sit in this House and proudly represent my electorate. I received a message at nine o'clock at night from my 19-year-old daughter who is at home. A break and enter occurred one street away from my family home. She is scared and has to lock the doors at night because her mother is down here. My 19-year-old and 17-year-old are at home alone. I am standing here as a legislator proud to bring in these laws.


I have heard those opposite and I heard the contribution by the member for Bundaberg. We are not afraid of accountability on this side of the House. We are not afraid of bringing in comprehensive youth justice reform plans, child protection reform plans and domestic violence reform plans. We do not shy away from the challenge, unlike those opposite who make announcement after announcement that, as many of us are discovering, are unfunded. In relation to that, I am sure that more legislation will be introduced into the House in the coming months.

We stand by accountability. We stand by Queenslanders who put their faith in an LNP government. We will do what we say we are going to do. We will not shy away from the challenge. All I have heard from those opposite is debate and flim-flam over where they are going to place their vote. I look forward to seeing whether each and every member of the opposition will stand up for their community, whether they will stand up for victims of crime and whether they are in touch with the reality of the state they have left Queensland in. There is a youth crime crisis caused by the failure of those opposite to enact a policy that results in any accountability. They have demonstrated that through their own lack of accountability as ministers. I certainly have experienced that coming into this role in the last month.

It saddens me to see the state that my community across Mackay and the Whitsundays is in. We have seen the crime rate soar. I want to thank the frontline police men and women. I also want to thank those innocent bystanders who are brave. They are putting themselves out there to protect their own families, at times in really terrifying situations. We all hear it all the time. Our offices have been

contacted. Maybe those opposite do not answer those emails. Maybe they now have to answer their own emails for a change. Maybe they will be more in touch with their grassroots constituents instead of in denial because they have so many staff between them and the reality of what we have dealt with over the last four years. Let us never forget or lose touch with those people we represent, because ultimately they are who we are here to serve.

I am proud to be part of an LNP Crisafulli government that is committed to making Queensland safe. We will not shy away from lowering victim numbers. Those opposite can stop the scare tactics. We will be judged in four years. I commend the bill. I look forward to seeing how those opposite vote. I look forward to reminding Queenslanders for the next four years whether they added to the youth crime crisis or whether they wanted to be part of the solution the LNP government has put forward.

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (11.46 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Making Queensland Safer Bill. I want to put on record my position and that of every Labor opposition member who has come into the chamber tonight who supports strong action and tough laws to protect Queenslanders. Everyone deserves to feel safe and must be safe in their communities across the various electorates in this state. As legislators, we have a role and a duty to make sure that when we come into this place we put in place laws that are evidence based, properly scrutinised and that have been demonstrated to work.

Most of the long-term members in here would know my history as the son of a police officer and my understanding of how society has changed. I was talking to the member for Lockyer earlier. We had a discussion around when the change occurred from khaki to a blue uniform. When I was very young I can remember my father coming home in khaki and then transitioning into the blue uniform. I can recall that he never wore his service pistol. In those days it was a .22 pistol as opposed to the Glocks they have these days. He never wore a protective vest or carried a taser or any of the gear that our police officers have to wear these days. The reality is that society has changed, and with society changing our good, hardworking men and women in the Police Service have changed how they deal with crime.

Crime has changed as well. The sad reality is that the most common type of crime these days is domestic and family violence. However, we are here tonight debating youth crime laws, and rightly so. If you look at the past, governments move crime laws to reflect changes in society. Tonight I am very encouraged by every member who has come in here and told stories of what is occurring in their electorate.

While the LNP went to the election with its Adult Crime, Adult Time position, the bill makes substantial changes to youth justice in Queensland. It is clear from the stakeholders that there are a number of unintended negative consequences which need further exploring. The LNP has rushed this bill through parliament, giving stakeholders less than a week to provide submissions. In fact, they held only two public hearings and a public briefing on the legislation. The bill and the extraordinarily limited process for consultation are, unfortunately, a textbook example of the kind of rushed, politicised lawmaking that will inevitably have significant and harmful consequences for all Queenslanders. The Labor caucus will not stand in the way of increased maximum sentences for youth offenders; however, Queenslanders did not vote for matters that will put Queenslanders in harm's way through those unintended consequences.

I make the following observations on the expert professional submitters who frustratingly provided evidence to the committee. I turn to the Queensland Law Society initially. The bill overrides Queensland's Human Rights Act 2019 and significantly diverges from the tenor of the fundamental legal principles—and we have always relied upon FLPs in this chamber to reflect upon whether natural justice is being done in terms of the laws we introduce—the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and other instruments such as the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty.

It is out of step with national and international best practice approaches to child justice and the approach recommended by the National Children's Commissioner of Australia. Furthermore, the bill will have an inimical effect on community safety. The provisions will entrench children in the youth justice system. The legislation will have a disproportionate detrimental and devastating impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children who are already disadvantaged.

In their submission the Bar Association of Queensland clearly identified that the LNP government has introduced the bill without evidence and will fill the objective of its purpose. They said—

... any reform to the criminal law should be evidence-based. There is no evidence that the Bill will fulfil its titular object of 'making Queensland safer'. In the statement of compatibility the purposes of the Bill are said to be 'punishment and denunciation'. There is no evidence that either of these sentencing philosophies will have a correlative positive effect on public safety.

The Australian Human Rights Commission noted—

... evidence shows that a more punitive justice system does not work to prevent crime by children.

Furthermore, they said—

The evidence shows that the younger you lock up children, the more likely it is that they will go on to commit more serious and violent crimes.

In the Attorney-General's own statement of compatibility, the Attorney-General admitted that the amendments are in conflict with international standards regarding the best interests of the child with respect to children in the justice system and are therefore incompatible with human rights. Furthermore, consistent with other submissions to the committee, the Attorney-General pointed out that these laws could result in more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children being imprisoned for periods of time.

In my capacity as a former minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships and a member of the Senate, I was privileged to travel right around this state and the Northern Territory and attend those discrete Indigenous communities, so I think I am forearmed with regard to seeing some of the conditions that some of our First Nations people live in. Therefore, we cannot stand here tonight without looking at the compatibility issues that have been identified by the Attorney-General and the effects on our First Nations people.


Given the expert evidence presented to the committee on this bill and the copious Senate hearings that I attended over six years, I ask the Attorney-General to reflect on the statement of compatibility once again, reflect on the human rights obligations and reconsider the effects on our First Nations people that have been clearly demonstrated. The opposition acknowledges that community safety is of paramount concern and that youth crime in particular is on the minds of many Queenslanders and indeed many Australians.

This problem is not unique to Queensland nor the world. I can recall several years ago when I was acting on behalf of the then minister for police, Mark Ryan, the member for Morayfield, in Bowen and talking to officers there. One officer had returned from Europe and was explaining what was happening over there. It was the same as what is happening in Australia currently. He spoke to me about the effect on youth crime and the effect on drugs. This is a worldwide issue; it is not unique to Queensland. We need to look at addressing this and we need to look at addressing society as it stands by looking at appropriate laws to put in place.

There are unanswered questions that need responses on the modelling of what this bill shall mean for those custodial officers who are responsible for the care of these children and the impact on the health and safety of those officers when overcrowding impacts the workplaces they are employed at. What modelling has been done for the increased workload on the courts?

As the member for Ferny Grove, I pride myself on the strong collaboration with the hardworking women and men at the Ferny Grove police station. My office engages with the station on a regular basis to have an understanding of any policing matters in the electorate. In respect of crime stats, I know by the information that is readily available through the Ferny Grove 10 Neighbourhood Watch, which provides trends of offences, that this year there were 25 in June, 10 in July and six in August. This is a clear sign of a reduction in crime in Ferny Grove this year. I am not disputing the facts and figures in other parts of the state. I take on board what members have said in those areas, and that is no doubt why we are here this evening.

We need to look at some of the measures we put in place. I want to commend the police minister at the time, the member for Morayfield, Mark Ryan, for the measures he put in place and for the \$1.28 billion he committed to tackle those crimes such as vehicle immobilisers, extra Polair helicopters, more police in Townsville, measures to reduce the carriage of concealed weapons through the introduction of Jack's Law, the use of electronic monitoring and strengthening hooning laws. With all of those measures I saw a reduction in crime in Ferny Grove. That is why we need to take on board our lived experiences and what we have experienced in our particular areas as members of parliament and come in here and have that debate. I appreciate that members have been respectful of each other this evening and are having a good, frank discussion around these laws.

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (11.56 pm): I rise here today not only as the member for Mirani but as someone who deeply understands the heartache and frustration of the people I represent. The Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024 demonstrates our government's unwavering commitment to deliver on our promises to Queenslanders in addressing the youth crime crisis that has plagued our state. Let me share the story of a family from Marian, which is a quiet, close-knit town of around 4,500 people just

30 kilometres west of Mackay. Marian is the kind of place where families move to escape the chaos of town life, seeking a sense of safety and community. It is a town where parents feel confident letting their kids ride bikes or walk to school, knowing they are part of a secure, supportive environment.

Just this week the sense of security was shattered. Local teenagers who are well known to authorities and repeatedly in and out of detention were released again on Thursday. By early Saturday morning they had broken into a home in Beaconsfield and stolen a car, Christmas presents and personal items. The car was later found burnt out. While the offenders were apprehended, they were released only to commit more crimes and were apprehended and released again. By 3 am on Monday these same offenders struck Marian. They broke into the home of one of my constituents, a young family with a two-year-old and a six-month-old. They stole both cars, wallets, Christmas presents including a pram, car seats and cash.

This family is now grappling with financial stress and trauma. They are sleeping together in one room, terrified that these criminals will return. To make matters worse, they have a terminally-ill parent in hospital whom they can no longer visit due to the loss of these vehicles. These offenders did not just steal possessions; they stole precious time with a loved one—time that can never be replaced. Their two-year-old witnessed these strangers in their home and is deeply traumatised, recounting details of the event that will take years to recover from. To add insult to injury, these offenders are brazenly showcasing their crimes on social media, glorifying their actions and encouraging others to do the same. This is not an isolated incident. It is a tragic example of what happens when the system fails to hold offenders accountable.

Under the previous Labor government, serious repeat youth offenders, like these ones terrorising my electorate, have avoided proper punishment and have been allowed to continue to terrorise our communities. Labor's so-called solution has allowed youth crime to spiral out of control. Since 2019, there has been an 8.3 per cent increase in the violence of youth offenders, and the number of serious repeat offenders has grown by 58 per cent.

Labor told Queenslanders that youth crime was decreasing, but the facts say otherwise. In the last financial year alone, there were 46,130 proven offences by young people, a 51 per cent increase over five years. These statistics represent thousands of Queenslanders whose lives have been disrupted by crime. This cannot go on, and it will not under this government.

The Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024 delivers on our promise of Adult Crime, Adult Time. Juvenile offenders who commit serious crimes such as murder, manslaughter or grievous bodily harm will now face the same penalties as adults. These include mandatory life detention for murder with a non-parole period of 20 years.

This bill also removes the principle of detention as a last resort for serious youth offenders, refocusing on community safety as the highest priority. Courts will now consider an offender's full criminal history, including juvenile records, when sentencing adult offenders.

While tougher laws are necessary, they are only part of the solution. Our government is making significant investments in early intervention and rehabilitation programs to address the root causes of youth crime and provide young people with a chance to change course. These initiatives aim to prevent crime before it happens and ensure young people are given the tools to turn their lives around.

Queenslanders deserve to feel safe in their own homes, workplaces and communities. This bill is not just about penalties and sentencing; it is about restoring safety, trust and dignity to the people of Queensland.

Victims must also be at the heart of our justice system. For too long, families like the one in Marian have been treated as an afterthought. This bill changes that. The Youth Justice Act will be amended so that the courts must prioritise the impact of the child's offending on victims when determining sentences. An opt-out model will ensure victims and their families automatically remain updated on the offender's custody movements unless they choose otherwise.


This bill is not about giving victims their communities back; it is about ensuring that families who work hard and contribute so much are no longer left behind by a system that prioritises offenders over their safety. But beyond tougher sentencing and better victim support, this bill delivers something equally important. It is called hope—hope these families can reclaim the sense of safety they deserve; hope that offenders can be rehabilitated before they escalate into more serious crimes; hope that our communities can thrive again unburdened by constant fear of what might happen next.



Crime is not just a statistic; it is the disruption of lives, a shattering of trust and a shadow over our communities. These incidents are not just headlines; they are personal tragedies. They are a stark reminder that crime has consequences beyond the act itself. The comprehensive approach ensures we are not just responding to crime but preventing it.

The people of Mirani and all of Queensland have been let down for too long. They have seen promises come and go, but they have rarely seen action. This bill is about an opportunity to change that, and I am proud to be a part of the government that takes action.

To the people of Mirani, I stand here today in support of this bill as a voice for victims of crime. I stand with the families who have endured unimaginable pain, and I stand with the communities that are counting on us for leadership and decisive action. I am proud to stand with the Crisafulli government in sending a clear and unwavering message: crime will not be tolerated, victims will be supported and prioritised, and the communities we represent will once again be safe.

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (12.04 am): I am very conscious of the time tonight. It is 12.04 am for anybody reading my transcript later. I am saying that because—

**A government member:** Thousands! Thousands!

**Mr MANDER:** There will be. Thank you. I take that interjection. I say that as an explanation. I want my contribution to be short, but it is important to put it on the record. Obviously, I am in favour of the Making Queensland Safer Bill. It is very rare to have one issue that dominates an election as much as community safety dominated this last election. I think most people in this House would recognise that a government's No. 1 priority is to ensure people are safe. That has been failing in recent years. I remember when I was shadow police minister one or two terms back, this issue started in Townsville and Cairns and it was isolated in those areas. It was incredibly serious there and, unfortunately, it was not until it left those two cities and came down here to Brisbane that I think people really understood how serious the issue was.

I remember going to South Africa in 2001 for football, believe it or not. Yes, South Africans play Rugby League. I had three weeks in Johannesburg and, during that time, I was in shock with regard to the security measures that were in place. Everybody had high walls or boundaries around their properties—barbed wire, broken glass on top to stop people coming in, and you had a security briefing wherever you went. The thing that really took me by surprise was the fact that many suburbs had decided to have their own security and had security gates and security guards to make sure those who should not be roaming the streets did not do that in those enclaves. I could not believe that that would happen, anywhere in Western civilisation. I reflect back now, as I look what is happening in our state, and that is now happening here. That is now happening in this state where people feel unsafe that they are engaging their own security officers to keep them and their families safe. That is simply not good enough.

I heard quite a few contributions over the last few hours. There is not much more to say other than to say this is a comprehensive policy. Yes, Adult Crime, Adult Time is an important part of that policy, but that applies to a very small cohort of hardcore recidivist offenders. We have to send a message that that behaviour is completely unacceptable, where they have thumbed their noses at society basically and saying to themselves, 'We can do anything we want.' That is not acceptable.


Of course, the other parts of the policy platform all talk about early intervention, rehabilitation, giving those young people a chance—those who make one mistake, maybe two mistakes, maybe three mistakes—but not when you steal 85 cars, not when you invade somebody's house, their privacy, armed and cause terror. That is not acceptable. This government has recognised that, and we are going to send a very clear message to those young offenders that we are coming after you and that everybody in society does not accept that behaviour and you either hear that message or you wear the consequences.

I want to thank the ministers who have been responsible for bringing this to the parliament. The police minister has been integral in this policy. I know he had a lot to do with Adult Crime, Adult Time. That is, I think, an unbelievably good policy.

If a 16-year-old commits murder and they get 20 years and they get out when they are 36, I think they have still done pretty well. Some think that is a harsh penalty when somebody has taken somebody else's life and they are convicted for that. I have had a couple of people from my community say, 'How dare you incarcerate innocent young people?' Well, guess what? In this state we do not incarcerate innocent people. We prosecute those who are alleged to have committed a crime, we go through a

court process and if they are found guilty a sentence applies to them. I think if you commit murder—at whatever age—you deserve the full force of the law. If they are that young, they will still get out with plenty of life left and plenty of chances to rehabilitate and to show that they can make a contribution to society.

On that note, I want to congratulate all of the ministers involved: the police minister, the youth justice minister, the Attorney-General and the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the member for Whitsunday. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr JKELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.10 am): I rise to make a contribution to this very important debate. I start by acknowledging all of the victims of crime and those members of this chamber who have shared their experiences. No crime is acceptable, and we should always have that at the forefront of our thinking as we work to support the victims through a grieving and recovery process and on their road to justice. I have cared for many victims of serious violent crime in my nursing career. It is always a troubling and difficult experience for the victims to not only recover from their physical injuries but also deal with the psychological damage, the trauma, the impact on their families and their careers and their ability to feel safe in their community or their home.

I would never say to anyone that I know what it is like to be a victim of serious crime, but I can say that I do care deeply about victims. If I am able to, if there is an incident in my community, I attempt to make respectful contact with the victims of crime to offer my support as an MP. Some people take this offer, seeking practical support in a number of ways. At some point when they do, there is often a shift in focus to what can be done to prevent further victims—whether that involves changes to systems, resources, policies or legislation. I have always worked to take those things forward. In this I know I am not alone. There is not a single member of this chamber who is not deeply moved when they hear of a violent crime or a victim of crime in their community and there is not a single member who does not want to prevent people becoming victims of crime.

This bill is an attempt to put into legislation the commitment the LNP took to the election to take this approach to youth crime. Our leader has said that our party acknowledges the mandate that the LNP has for its Adult Crime, Adult Time policy, but this bill goes well beyond that mandate. We have attempted to act in a constructive manner to be able to support the outcome the government is attempting to achieve. We have tried to offer alternative approaches, which the shadow minister did yesterday with her amendment to the second reading—not, as some speakers to those amendments said yesterday, in an attempt to redraft the clauses. If members actually read the amendment they would know that it sought simply to redraft this bill to remove certain clauses and have those re-presented to allow for proper parliamentary scrutiny to occur in relation to these very significant consequential changes.

The Bar Association in their submission pointed out, while the broad intent of the LNP plan was known, the specifics were revealed less than two weeks ago. They noted it was simply not enough time to work through such important changes. It is the specifics of the clauses beyond introducing adult sentencing for children who commit crimes that have a significant capacity to result in unintended consequences. It is certainly worth noting what Professor Goldsworthy of Bond University said in his submission. It states—

The last time legislation was rushed through the parliamentary process like this it resulted in the ill-conceived and problematic VLAD anti-bikie laws that were a dismal failure in terms of combating organised crime.

The shadow minister in her contribution has outlined a range of potential unintended consequences that should be considered more thoroughly. I think the fundamental reason we should take more time is that we do not want more victims of crime or more trauma for victims of crime. That is one of the first issues with this bill. It says that it wants to put victims first but, instead, it potentially puts victims on trial. There has been no indication in this bill of how the increased numbers of children who will inevitably be incarcerated will be managed. Surely, if you are anticipating an increase in youth detention numbers—regardless of the form that takes—the government must be considering how this would be managed and be able to explain how this will be managed. That has not been done in the current examination of this bill.

There is more I could say about other unintended consequences such as restorative justice, or the fact that this bill will lead to harsher penalties for children than adults, or the fact that mandatory sentencing will lead people to be less likely to plead guilty. Other speakers have covered these things. I will move on.

I want to commend the focus on rehabilitation, but I reject the notion that there was nothing happening in this area. While it is commendable to say that a 12-month plan will be in place, if it is not resourced properly it will fail. Other than constant references to 'gold standards', there is scant evidence and detail available on what form this will take, let alone how much it will cost. Whilst rehabilitation is great, I think all members of this chamber agree that preventing crime in the first place should be a high priority.

I read with interest the analysis of crime rates in Queensland contained in Professor Goldsworthy's submission. I took a deep interest in this aspect of many submissions that covered these issues, including the submission made by Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Centre—a fantastic organisation in my community providing space for healing and support for young women and gender-diverse people who have been impacted by sexual and domestic violence. Zig Zag noted in their submission—

... statistics also demonstrate that youth crime in Queensland has been steadily declining over the past decade, with 2021-2022 being the lowest in recorded history.

I do not want to get into a statistics argument, but it is challenging when all of these submissions contain very different views on the extent and the nature of the problem. In my experience, people who are victims of crime actually do not care to have discussions about statistics. Instead, they want support to recover and often to focus on how to prevent more people becoming victims. When I talk to people in my community, they also do not really care too much for stats. They agree that any amount of crime is too much, that we should support victims and that we should try to address the drivers of crime to prevent further people becoming victims.

There is a high correlation between youths who offend and youths who are disengaged from education. Free kindy, expanded pathway colleges, more flexi learning centres, Skilling Queenslanders for Work—these were all things we were doing, and I urge the LNP to stay the course on these initiatives. I do not know enough about this Men of Business program that is being pushed, but I will certainly look into it. Between the Pathways colleges and the Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs, we already have established evidence-based programs that really do make a difference. I hope we can remain bipartisan when it comes to preventing domestic and family violence, because we know that exposure to DV as a child correlates very highly with involvement in the criminal justice system for young people.


We put some amendments to provide a way forward to more thoroughly consider these issues. Our party position is to recognise that the LNP have a mandate for their Adult Crime, Adult Time slogan, but I personally struggle with that. Again I turn to the submission from Zig Zag, which capture my thoughts. It states—

There is overwhelming evidence to indicate that the 'adult time for adult crime' policy will be a failed policy that will only serve to increase rates of youth detention—an approach that has been proven to not only be ineffective but to cause serious long-term harm and trauma to disadvantaged children and young people. The criminalisation and imprisonment of vulnerable children and young people is a failed approach that does not provide the necessary support or 'rehabilitation' to address the drivers of youth offending.

While I acknowledge the mandate that the LNP has to implement the Adult Crime, Adult Time aspects of this legislation, when I listen to young people in my community around these issues there are some recurring themes. I think there is no doubt that people want action. There is no doubt that people want to be and feel safe in their communities. There is no doubt that people want victims of crime supported. People want to prevent crime and all people tell me that they want us to get these laws right. I think if we get these laws right, we will see fewer young people ruining their own lives and the lives of others. The vast majority of young people I deal with are fantastic people. They are Scout leaders. They are great students. They are funny. They are enthusiastic sportspeople. They plant trees. They teach young kids to dance. Lots of them like to work and they work hard. They all seem to like weird music with what I assume is a lot of swearing—but I am only guessing, because I cannot really understand it anyway. The young people I meet are positive, make massive contributions to our community and want to be part of a great community.

The people in my community—whether they are young or old—want all young people to be like that. That is why we have to get these laws right. We have an incredibly high risk of getting these laws wrong if we rush them. There are widely divergent views on this bill on my community. I think if more time is taken to properly consider these matters and to consult the community, including the much maligned experts, we have a much greater chance of arriving at a consensus on a way forward that would be broadly supported across society and much more effective at achieving the policy objectives. I think if more time were taken we would achieve the policy objectives that I think we agree on. Certainly

the things that my community tell me are important are that they want to see fewer victims of crime, better support for victims, more young people living full and meaningful lives and greater levels of accountability for people who commit violent crimes. Ultimately, what they really want is genuinely safer communities.


 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (12.19 am): I rise this morning to make a contribution and speak on the Making Queensland Safer Bill. In the midst of a cost-of-living crisis the businesses of Keppel are sick of paying the price for the chaos and crisis of crime in our community. The hardworking men and women of the Queensland Police Service in Keppel are sick of carrying the burden of enforcement only to witness the justice system put the rights of criminals before the rights of victims. The consequence is a generation of untouchables and a revolving door for repeat young offenders. The families of Keppel are sick of being made victims, with violation of their property, the stealing of their children's innocence and the theft of their right to feel safe in their homes. On 26 October we gave voice to those who have felt abandoned and let down. Our businesses are paying the price, our police are unfairly carrying the burden and our families have become victims who no longer feel safe in their homes.

The stories of my community drove me to run for parliament and they drive me to want change. The first is the story of Ross, a business owner who provides first jobs for local kids from our local high school, an independent grocer and a long-term local. Ross and his business have been repeat targets for theft and robbery. From the cost of replacing broken windows, opening late due to the need to clean up unnecessary destruction in his store through to the weekly cutting of losses of stock and the huge increase in cost related to his insurance and the security systems he has installed, Ross has had enough. The cost of the youth crime crisis means our local independent grocer has higher operating costs, which means less profit, which equates to fewer workers and higher prices for customers. In the midst of a cost-of-living crisis we are all paying the price for crime.

A Parkhurst local shared with me his admiration of our local police and his determination to vote for change at the last election because of his personal experience. This gentleman awoke one night to find young people in his home. He chased the offenders out his front door and down the street. One young fellow fell over and a note fell out of his pocket. The Parkhurst local did not catch the offender but did retrieve the note. It was a court notice from an appearance in the Rockhampton courthouse that same day. The home owner called the police and they diligently visited. They checked that he was okay, they collected evidence of fingerprints, and they got his security camera footage and the note. The hardworking men and women of the Queensland Police Service are doing the toughest of jobs in the toughest of circumstances. They recognised the offender and, in the words of the local, were ashen-faced and nearly defeated but promised they would once again charge the youth for the crimes he had committed. Unfortunately, this gentleman did not hold much faith that the justice system would give justice to either himself or our hardworking police.

I turn now to a family who awoke to start the day with the kids asleep and the husband and wife each setting about their preparations, each assuming the noise they could hear was actually the other pottering about their house. Unfortunately, that family had multiple young people in their home. Going from room to room, they collected their keys, their wallets and their phones—they were all gone. This family now lives in fear. The children have spent months sleeping in their parents' room. The wife jumps at every sound and she herself would say she constantly checks her myriad security cameras, the devices and the locks on the doors. She does not want her husband to travel away for work, which is affecting their family's income and, ultimately, their lifestyle. The husband now lives with a misplaced guilt that he had not noticed what was going on and anger that his home had been invaded. Whenever he does travel for work, he frets each night because he knows his wife is awake at home. This family is paying the price for crime.

To feel safe in our home is a right that all Queenslanders should expect, yet the experience of so many in the communities of Keppel has been that their home no longer feels impenetrable, no longer feels safe, and that is not good enough. The LNP will deliver for Queensland because we promised to, and this government will keep its promise to Queenslanders. The people of Central Queensland and Keppel have just one wish for Christmas this year: to feel safe in their home. Now is the time for action. On behalf of the people of Keppel I offer my support and my vote to the Making Queensland Safer Bill.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (12.25 am): The Labor opposition supports strong actions and tough laws to protect Queenslanders because everyone deserves to feel safe and must be safe in their homes, in their workplaces and in their communities. I think we all believe in this place that even one victim of crime is one too many and we must use all of the tools in our arsenal to reduce crime in our community.

As many members of the opposition have said already, we have heard the message from the election from the people of Queensland. The Crisafulli government ran almost exclusively on a platform of adult time for adult crime. Although there was not much detail available to consider, it is very clear that Queenslanders voted to support this policy, which was on countless billboards throughout Queensland. As the Leader of the Opposition has said, the LNP government has a mandate for this legislation and we do not intend as a Labor caucus to stand in their way.

At the start of my contribution I want to thank the victims of crime who have made a contribution over the course of this issue being debated throughout the community, for telling their stories and for sharing them with Queenslanders. It is one of the most difficult things a person can do—to relive one of the most traumatic events of their lives. Their willingness to do so in difficult circumstances is commendable. I am sure I speak for all members of this House when I say that we very deeply appreciate their bravery in doing so.

In particular, I thank members of the Mount Ommaney community who reached out to me to share their stories. When I went out doorknocking, often to proactively talk about events like community catch-ups with our local police, I would take the opportunity to ask people if they had personally been impacted by crime in our community. Some people would tell me stories that went back over 20 years. That tells me that being a victim of crime can leave a mark on somebody that can last decades, especially if the offence is violent. These stories certainly redoubled my resolve to do everything I can to support victims, whether it is through legislation or ensuring that trauma informed support is available.

This is a very emotional issue and it is something on which many people in my community have conveyed a view to me regardless of whether or not they have been personally impacted by crime. I know that many people have chosen to live in Mount Ommaney, in my beautiful community, because in my view we can provide our children with the kind of childhood that we had as young people growing up in the eighties. We had the kind of childhood where you could walk to school safely, go to the shops to pick up some milk for mum and get some lollies, or walk around to nan and pop's house after school and safely return home at dusk on foot without your parents needing to worry about where you were. I want everyone in Queensland to know but also feel that they live in a safe community where every Queensland child can have that kind of upbringing. When I speak with my community, that sentiment is clear; that is what they want too. As I said, the LNP went to the election with the Adult Crime, Adult Time policy/slogan, but I am concerned that the bill makes substantial changes that extend far beyond that four-word slogan.

We understand and accept that Queenslanders have given a mandate for that policy and the Premier has been clear that he wanted that particular policy implemented by Christmas. However, as I said, these laws go far beyond that. I am disappointed that the LNP would not consider the very reasonable request to have some of the non-core elements of the bill that were not so widely canvassed considered for longer in a committee process. The reason I am so disappointed is that it is clear from the stakeholder feedback that there are a number of potential unintended negative consequences that do need further fleshing out.

All members of the House want crime numbers to go down. We all want victim numbers to go down. However, we know that Queenslanders want the laws to be evidence based and actually work to reduce crime, because, at the end of the day, the metric that we are looking to achieve here with this legislation is a reduction in victim numbers. Indeed, that is exactly what the Premier has said. He has staked his leadership on reducing total victim numbers through this bill and I genuinely want him to succeed in that goal for the good of all Queenslanders. He said that actual victim numbers would go down under his time as Premier or he would resign. According to an article in the *Guardian* he said—

I'm serious about it, and I'm not giving myself any wriggle room. It's victim numbers ...


This is not per capita but straight up victim numbers. It will be for Queenslanders to decide what the Premier said, what he meant and if he has delivered on his promise to Queensland. It is worth noting that by the time he walked back his original comments around 30 per cent of voters had already voted in Mount Ommaney. However they voted, they would have voted believing that his promise was to deliver a lower overall number of victims based on his own words.

The LNP has rushed this bill through parliament, giving stakeholders less than a week to provide submissions and has held only a few public hearings and a public briefing on this legislation. It is worth noting that, under current trends and under our government, per capita victim numbers were already trending downwards. The reason I make this observation is not to say that enough has already been done but to make the point that Queenslanders are evidently—and rightfully so—not happy with the

current number of victims in our community. I certainly cannot imagine that Queenslanders will be happy if actual victim numbers go up, even if they continue to trend downwards on that per capita basis. My community heard the Premier commit to lowering actual victim numbers and I know that it will be disappointed with his last-minute qualification. I am not sure why he made that last-minute qualification. Perhaps he realised that the initial statement was simply unachievable.

As I have said, the Labor team have no intention of standing in the way of the Premier's election commitment or his mandate on that. However, just a few sitting days into this 58th Parliament we have seen conventions in this place trashed in a way that no-one could have anticipated. With the start that those opposite have made in this 58th Parliament, I am deeply concerned to see what may be to come. Members opposite have said that there potentially could be more to come, and that is interesting for a few reasons. Firstly, I hope that these laws are the fix that we are all looking for. However, with the concerns that I have raised, I have very grave fears that there are many potential unintended consequences.

There is no harm in taking some of those non-core elements of the bill and allowing more time for consultation to ensure that we get these very important measures right for the community. We can still allow the core elements of the bill to pass whilst not having those elements that need further exploration pass before Christmas. This would ensure that stakeholders were more comfortable with the legislation as it is proposed. These issues need to be addressed and these questions need to be answered. Unlike what they got on victim numbers, the people of Queensland need a straight answer on this. I have very serious concerns about the unintended consequences of this. I hope to hear more from the minister in her summing-up on these very important issues.

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (12.34 am): For my own sanity I have to believe that at least some things are objectively true, and one of those things surely is that actions have consequences. If we hold that effort deserves reward, then surely we should demand that violence deserves justice. For a decade there has been no justice for communities across Queensland. Instead, they have had salt poured into their wounds—emotionally and physically—by a Labor government that was either disinterested or incapable of owning its mistakes. However, I am happy to report that there is hope. The people of Queensland have spoken and a new government in this new parliament will right these wrongs and make Queensland safe.

Safety is surely the primary obligation of any government, because without safety we cannot have prosperity. If you as a citizen or a provider are fixated about keeping you and your family safe you cannot do those other things—those aspirational things, those things that will deliver a better tomorrow—because you are too consumed about being safe today. While there are hundreds of thousands of victims in Queensland who have been directly affected by the youth crime crisis, I want to acknowledge those indirect victims—those who have been impacted by rising insurance costs but also those who have been impacted because they have been robbed of the opportunity to enjoy that great Queensland lifestyle. Like many members on this side—and I have to be confident that it is true of those on the other side—I did a lot of doorknocking during the campaign.

**Ms Bush:** Grow up!

**Mr VORSTER:** I did grow up during that doorknocking, and how could you not grow up when confronted by harrowing stories? They are growth opportunities. I would hope that the opposition has the opportunity to grow through this debate and realises that the electorate has spoken. What the electorate has said is very clear, and that is that we cannot continue down the current path because, if we do, we will create more victims and those victims will sometimes pay incredible prices. In my own community, having doorknocked many thousands of homes, I was keen to ensure that I had a social licence, that I had a licence from my community to walk in here and back in these laws. I was very proud to launch a campaign called the Stop Burleigh Crime campaign. It was available at [stopburleighcrime.com.au](http://stopburleighcrime.com.au). I knocked on doors and put flyers through letterboxes and by the end of that campaign, which ran but a few months, 800 families had joined our campaign for change.

They did not want anything extraordinary. They wanted more police and they wanted stronger laws so that they could get on with the job of raising their families and running their businesses. What occurred to me during that process is that these 800 families were not only distressed with the weaker laws that had been foisted upon them by a government too disinterested to deal with the problem but also confronted by a lack of resources on the ground. What I mean to say is they had fewer police in 2024 than they had had in 2015 despite our population growing. That is why I talked about rubbing salt

into the wounds of the problem. It was the former Labor government who created this crime crisis by weakening the laws and they did not respond with more police to play catch-up, they reduced the number of police.

**Ms Bush:** That's a lie!

**Mr VORSTER:** In the Burleigh electorate police numbers went backwards. It is not a lie. I will take the interjection.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Burleigh and member for Cooper, I have heard both of you in the last 20 seconds use unparliamentary language. Member for Burleigh, would you withdraw?

**Mr VORSTER:** Of course I would withdraw and I would—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Just take a moment. Just withdraw, please.

**Mr VORSTER:** I do withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Cooper, would you please withdraw your unparliamentary language?


**Ms BUSH:** Of course, Mr Deputy Speaker, I withdraw.

**Mr VORSTER:** I will certainly be seeking your guidance after this contribution to better understand how to make my point. It is important that I do make my point because my community has said unequivocally that they need a voice in this parliament championing their concerns. My colleagues on this side of the chamber have done a remarkable job articulating how these laws will work—and they will work—so what I would like to do instead is reflect on the concerns of my community, to speak up on behalf of those 800 signatures.

I consider Burleigh to be the jewel in the Gold Coast tourism crown. Every member loves their patch of Queensland, but I regard Burleigh as an incredible place. Unfortunately, the attention on Burleigh has brought with it an unsavoury cohort. We have young offenders tearing down shopfronts, we have young offenders abusing staff members and we have young offenders assaulting visitors along the Burleigh Esplanade. This is a concern for me because this youth crime crisis and its associated antisocial behaviour is not only putting property and safety at risk but also putting our economy at risk as well because when you have a tourism asset—and Burleigh is a tourism asset for the Gold Coast—at risk of permanent reputational damage then you have economic consequences. We can ill-afford that.

To answer the call of the community, I am very proud to stand with my LNP colleagues and support the Making Queensland Safer Laws, but I do also want to say that we will do something that the ALP refused to do in government and that is to properly resource local police. I want to thank the Minister for Police. He came down to the Burleigh community and he said that we would right Labor's wrong. As part of our election commitment the LNP will deliver a \$4.1 million boost to public safety initiatives in Burleigh. We will have \$2 million for new wages for extra police. We will have \$500,000 dedicated to CCTV initiatives. We will have more lighting.

What I am most excited about is we will have a permanent police presence in Burleigh. That is important, as I said, to address issues in the economy, but it is important for another reason: at the moment an underresourced Palm Beach police station is having hardworking police officers dragged out of the suburbs at night into a night-time hotspot. Delivering a permanent police presence and \$1 million for Friday and Saturday night duties into Burleigh will free up resources into the cul-de-sacs and the streets where people are doing it tough—where people have been affected by stolen cars, by assaults and robberies. I give my full support to these laws. I give my full support to a government that will deliver extra police to enforce those laws. Actions must have consequences. I hope the members opposite realise that their inaction has consequences as well—electoral consequences.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (12.44 am): I rise to give my contribution to the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024. Youth crime is the biggest issue we face across the state. People have had a gutful and want action—I withdraw that unparliamentary language, Mr Deputy Speaker. In this debate there have been many figures stated and examples given of youth crime. I could quote a lot of figures and give many examples of the thousands of cars that have been stolen and burnt, the homes that have been ransacked and the businesses that have been destroyed, but instead I will read out a list of the speeches that I have delivered which highlight how bad the problem is. This does not include the numerous questions, petitions and rallies that I have participated in over the years.

The first is a private member's statement titled 'Hill Electorate, Youth Crime'. On 21 April 2021, I spoke on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill; I spoke on the Criminal Law (Raising the Age of Responsibility) Amendment Bill; I gave a private member's statement titled 'Far North Queensland, Youth Crime'; and on another private member's statement titled 'Youth Crime'. I gave a speech on the Strengthening Community Safety Bill. I spoke on a motion in relation to youth crime. In matters of public interest, I gave a contribution titled 'Youth Crime'. I made a contribution to the debate on the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill—the list goes on.

Many of these relate to the electorate of Hill which takes in the Cassowary Coast and the Atherton Tablelands. While the crime problem is bad there, it is nowhere near as bad as in Townsville and Cairns. I take my hat off to the member for Hinchinbrook who pushed this issue. Many former members of parliament from those areas are no longer here as a result of this issue. I believe that the previous government has failed miserably to take appropriate action on youth crime. There is no doubt the LNP came to government with a mandate on youth crime. I congratulate them for acting swiftly and introducing the following key objectives: Adult Crime, Adult Time; removing the principle of detention as a last resort; and altering the process relating to the transfer of 18-year-olds from youth detention centres to adult correctional centres.

The bill also amends the Childrens Court Act 1992. It will also ensure that victims, relatives of victims and accredited media can be present during the criminal proceedings. It is great to see that the government has adopted the Adult Crime, Adult Time policy that the KAP, in particular the member for Hinchinbrook, has argued for. Since 2002 the member for Hinchinbrook has continued to push this policy. We fully support the inclusion of another KAP policy: the removal of detention as a last resort. In the end, the most important thing is getting this over the line. We are not about taking credit. We want to solve the crime problem. In 2022 the member for Traeger introduced amendments to the Youth Justice Bill to remove detention as a last resort. It was voted against by both major parties. I am very pleased to see that the LNP is endorsing this here tonight.

We do support this legislation. We will be backing it, although we believe it does not go far enough. There are a number of policies that the KAP have pushed that we believe can make a difference. One of them is detention as a last resort and the government has adopted that. The policy of Adult Crime, Adult Time has also been adopted. We are pushing for our other policies to be addressed. I do not believe that the crime problem will be resolved unless they are also adopted.

We advocate for relocation sentencing. We want to send them to remote locations and teach them to drive front-end loaders and graders, build cattle yards and muster. If you send them out amongst the flies, the crows, the heat and the dust to build cattle yards, muster and drive graders and front-end loaders, after 12 months the last thing they would do is commit crime and be sent back out again. That is why we know that relocation sentencing works. You can laugh your head off, moron over there, but this needs to be adopted.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, you used unparliamentary language.

**Mr KNUTH:** I withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Comments will come through the chair.

**Mr KNUTH:** I am sorry, Mr Speaker. Castle law dates back to the 1688 English Bill of Rights, which made your home your castle. It means that if someone enters your home with the intention of causing harm then you have the right to defend yourself. If someone breaks into your home, which is your castle, and that person comes off second-best then that is not your fault; it is their fault. The responsibility falls back on them. The other policy that I want to talk about is minimum mandatory sentencing, which would give judges proper definitions enabling them to hand down appropriate sentences.

We fully support what the LNP government is doing. Well done. While we commend them for that, three areas need to be added: relocation sentencing, castle law and minimum sentencing. I believe that in two years we will be back here implementing those policies because, as the government knows, this bill does not go far enough. It will not resolve the crime problem, but our policies would. Legislating our policies would definitely scare the life out of kids who are thinking about committing crime and they would act as a deterrent. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Knuth, adjourned.



## ADJOURNMENT



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (12.52 am): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

### Jack Watts Legacy



**Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (12.52 am): Like many of my colleagues, I have had the privilege of attending the graduation ceremonies for the exceptional class of 2024. I congratulate year 12 students in the Mansfield electorate for their hard work, dedication and resilience throughout their school years. Your achievements are a testament to your commitments and to your perseverance. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the teachers, parents and carers who have supported these students every step of the way. Like me, they understand the profound impact a quality education has in empowering a bright future, setting our students on the path to success.

The Mansfield electorate is home to some of the most inspiring people I know. One such family has touched my heart and the hearts and lives of countless others. Recently I attended the Jack Watts Legacy golf day, a wonderful event in support of the Mater Foundation and the fundraising efforts of Shaune Watts and his family. The Jack Watts Legacy was established in honour of Jack Watts, the late son of Kimberly and Shaune and the brother of Ella and Noah—an extraordinary family. Jack, a former student at Mansfield State High School, was just 18 years old when he tragically lost his 2½-year battle with cancer just two months after graduating. His death was an unimaginable loss; however, in the face of such profound grief the Watts family has shown incredible strength and resilience.

In 2009, long before Jack's passing, they were committed to fundraising. It coincided with the loss of Shaune's mother to leukaemia. To date they have raised over \$900,000 for causes close to their hearts, including My Little Miracles and the Leukaemia Foundation. These funds have gone to support crucial accommodation for leukaemia patients and purchase vital equipment for the Neonatal Critical Care Unit at the Mater Hospital. With the loss of Jack, the Watts family chose to continue their mission, transitioning their efforts into the Jack Watts Legacy. The funds raised accelerate clinical trials for people with rare-cancer diagnoses. The Jack Watts Legacy is more than just a fundraising initiative; it is a beacon of hope for those in need. In Jack's memory the Watts family is providing a brighter future for Queenslanders, ensuring Jack's spirit lives on in every life that is touched by this important work. These are locals whose courage and determination inspire us all.

Finally, I am hearing whispers that the hours of operation will be cut at the Mount Gravatt nurse-led clinic as they have been in Gladstone. My community is on high alert for any LNP cuts.

### Toowoomba North Electorate, Charities




**Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (12.55 am): Mr Speaker, this is the first time I have risen in the House since you were appointed to the high office of Speaker. I congratulate you on that. You are a great representative for the seat of Condamine.

I rise to talk about a thing I do every Christmas. I call it the '12 days of Christmas'. I volunteer for different charities in the great electorate of Toowoomba North to highlight the good work they and the volunteers do and the energy and effort they put in at Christmas time. The first shout-out I would like to give is to Loads of Love, which works with Food Assist to make sure food parcels and hams are available to anybody who needs one. They go online and register. I helped them pack some bags on my first day. I did some gift-wrapping for LifeFlight at the Myer Centre to raise money. I want to give a shout-out to Gus Romero and Emily O'Sullivan, who have interchanged in the leadership of both of those organisations.

Momentum Health was the charity of choice for our mayoral Carols By Candlelight, so we gave out candles and asked for donations on the weekend. I will soon be working with Emma Mactaggert at Lighthouse delivering books for children. Lighthouse is an authors program that does a lot of work around literacy for children. I will be doing a bit more gift-wrapping for Alison Kennedy at the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation. I will be going out with OzHarvest and Food Rescue to deliver food parcels, highlighting the great work they do in our community. I will of course get along to the great Wilsonton Heights Community Centre and celebrate Christmas with them and the community that Kaye Lindsay and the team serve. I will also do a shift at Base Services, which, as many people in Toowoomba would know, has been run for a long time now by Nat and Tiff. They provide services for homeless people in our community.

YellowBridge is a great organisation in our electorate. It helps people stay in their homes. They deliver yellow buckets that have been stacked by their staff with donations of little treats, so I will get around and do that. Christmas Wonderland is put on by one of the great Lions clubs in the Toowoomba region. It is fantastic. If anybody wants to drive up the hill to take their kids to see our wonderful lights display, the Christmas Wonderland in Toowoomba is well worth the visit. I sign off every year at Protea Place Women's Support Centre, where I help them serve food to the people they have supported. I share Christmas lunch with them. It is a great community. Merry Christmas to everybody in Toowoomba North.

### Health Services

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.58 am): And so it begins. I am speaking, of course, about LNP cuts to Queensland's health services. It has not taken long for the Premier's mask to slip, has it? This week we have seen the first sign of betrayal to Queenslanders. Time and again before the last election the Premier refused to answer questions about impending cuts under an LNP government. 'Nothing to see here,' Queenslanders were repeatedly told by Mr Crisafulli. The Premier ducked, weaved and dodged his way through packs of journalists. Now we know the truth. Cutting health services is in the LNP's DNA. This week it has become apparent that the LNP has cut services to nurse-led clinics and incentive schemes to attract health professionals and transfer nurses to regional Queensland which have been hugely successful.


I like to give people a chance. I take them at face value, at their word. It is every Queenslanders' trait: we give people a fair go. I was even hopeful of working with the LNP to improve the health services on Brisbane's bayside. Health services on the bayside have always been a priority to me. I have worked so hard to ensure we have access to good quality health care after—wait for it—the LNP shut down our hospital and shut down our Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit. That is right: they shut down a hospital and an aged-care facility. Some 85 residents lost their home, with no regard from those opposite. That is what the LNP did when they were last in government.

There is an opportunity for the Crisafulli government to right the wrongs of the past and for the new Premier to forge a new identity—one that cares about vital human services—and break away from his LNP predecessor. This week's revelation about cuts to nurse-led clinics and incentive schemes makes the hope of improving, and even keeping, health services on the bayside a pipedream.

There is an old adage: if someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time. Worryingly, Crisafulli is now showing us who he is. It begs the question: what services will go at Gundu Pa under this LNP government? Will they close down the 24-hour primary care clinic that takes the pressure off GPs and emergency rooms? How many staff will be sacked from Gundu Pa under this LNP government, or will they just write off public health on the bayside altogether and sell Gundu Pa to the highest bidding private consortium? Show us who you are, Premier.

I call on the member for Broadwater to rise in this chamber and guarantee that he will not cut the funding to Gundu Pa, palliative care and the range of health services on the bayside and that he will not sell Gundu Pa. The Premier will not do that because we know the answer: the cuts will keep coming.

### Nambour, Community Safety


 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (1.01 am): Keira Fiorenza was a local small business owner in Nambour. She ran a jewellery store for many years in Lowe Street—just one example of the many hardworking small business owners who have invested in our town. Sadly, in November 2022 Keira closed her shop for the last time after several break-ins and two armed robberies left her traumatised and suffering from PTSD. After an armed robbery at the store in 2019, Keira spearheaded a community push and petition for a permanent police beat shopfront in Nambour to increase community safety and deter offenders. She bravely stood up to try to protect her business and others from going through what she went through. She delivered that petition to me as the local member for Nicklin at the time and I tabled it in parliament. It requested the then Labor police minister finally provide a police beat in Nambour—a request that was denied.

This was not the first time a police beat had been requested. The chamber of commerce in Nambour and the community had already run several campaigns over the previous decade or more for a permanent police beat shopfront in Nambour, but this fell on the deaf ears of successive Labor governments and even a local Labor member recently. I am proud to report, as I committed to in my recent campaign, that the Crisafulli LNP government have listened to the voices of the community and businesses of Nambour and we will deliver a permanent police beat shopfront in the heart of Nambour's CBD.

I want to pay tribute to Keira, who toughed it out as long as she could and who grew to know the frustration of a Labor government that continually insisted there was not a problem and denied the community the police beat they were desperately asking for. A strong community spirit exists in Nambour. Indeed, I attended the Nambour Chamber of Commerce Christmas gathering last Friday and can say that there is enthusiasm and an upbeat spirit in the town. There are new investments from businesses in the CBD such as Lauren and Jake's Bitesize Bliss Cafe, Walter's Artisan Bread and Challenge Accepted, along with a new cinema opening—and there is more to come.

There are good times ahead for Nambour. I say to my community: as your local member, I am looking forward to making Nambour safer by finally delivering our promised permanent police beat in the heart of the Nambour CBD and live-feed CCTV cameras into the local police station, along with our strong new laws to deal with offenders. There will be more to do, and I look forward to working with the chamber of commerce, the local police and our whole community to make Nambour a thriving and safe place to live, work and play.

### Logan East Community Neighbourhood Association

 **Mr de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (1.04 am): Just six weeks in government and the LNP have already broken at least half a dozen promises—a growing list. Remember what they said week in and week out. They promised Queenslanders that they would do what they said. The community I represent is already seeing that promise fading—a promise made to the most vulnerable in our community. Perhaps for those opposite it feels like an easy promise to break—a promise to those who are vulnerable.


Right now, the future is uncertain for the Logan East Community Neighbourhood Association. Their future hinges on a promise. At this election the LNP said that when they say something it means something. That is what the LNP Premier said to Queenslanders. He said that his party would do what they said they were going to do. Right now, they are not doing that.

On 26 September, the LNP announced that an LNP government would partially fund LECNA's Community Connect program. They committed to just one-third of the funding that was required, but they made the promise nonetheless. They said that, regardless of the election outcome, they would fund the centre. On the other hand, Labor committed to fully fund every measure that was required. We did that in front of the Queensland Community Alliance Assembly at St Mark's Anglican Church. That was a fully funded five-year commitment from Labor because Labor believes in fully supporting and investing in our neighbourhood centres. Our track record speaks for itself. When it comes to the LNP, though, our community knows their history. We remember the last time they were in government. They cut funding for community services by 10 per cent. Now their bad old habits are back and our community can already see the cuts coming.

Tonight, our community is asking for something basic. We are asking this LNP government to keep their promise, because the LNP is giving our struggling neighbourhood centre the cold shoulder. They have literally iced the most vulnerable people in our community. We can only assume this new LNP minister, or perhaps it is Premier Crisafulli himself, and the LNP are not interested in a relationship with the community sector. They are shamefully ghosting the community centre they made this promise to and the people it serves. Tonight, our community calls on the LNP minister to stick to their word. We are saying, 'Do what you said you would do, Minister.' Pick up the phone and respond the community centre's email. Do what you said you would do.

We know that the LNP already nickel and dimed the commitment to this community centre. Our community knew that, but our community centre and the people it serves did not expect this LNP Premier to break another promise after a handful of weeks.

### Cyclone Jasper

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (1.07 am): Next week marks the one-year anniversary of Far North Queensland standing up against the might of Mother Nature and the devastation of Cyclone Jasper. After Jasper hit the rain did not stop for days, and by the weekend the horror had started to build. Calls for help on social media broke my heart. One terrified, heavily pregnant mother was floating on a mattress with her toddler, begging for someone to rescue her. What happened during the floodwaters rising and afterwards defined the spirit of our community. Isolated from the rest of the world and with official help channels stretched, many risked their lives to save their neighbours. The tales of heroism, kindness and generosity from this time have been humbling and inspirational.


Today I would like to acknowledge the Far North Queensland community for our strength, resilience and love for one another. I would particularly like to acknowledge our SES and first responders, who were instrumental in countless rescues. The SES crews from Gordonvale, Holloways Beach, Trinity Beach, Edmonton, Machans Beach, Cairns, Innisfail, Kuranda and Buchans Point did an incredible job, responding to over 1,000 calls for help in 48 hours.

I would like to make special mention of some incredible humans who risked their lives at the peak of the floods: Steve Schwartz, Lindsay Marriott, Reece Booiij, Lucy Graham, Nicholas Piggini, Andrew Patterson, Natalie Sonenko, Maxwell Folley, Chris Jerrems, Bradley Lillyman, Tyler Vikionkorpi, Kate Morelli, Darren Low and Ricky and Jarrod Maller. Those brave SES rescuers and civilians took people from their homes and dropped them on the roof of a house in Holloways Beach. At one point, that roof had nearly 40 people on it as they waited for another SES boat to take them up the Barron River, past flying logs and against incredible currents, to the Barron River boat ramp and safety. Around 157 people, 50 dogs and cats, plus a blue-tongue lizard crossed that roof on the Sunday night. There were a further 200 rescues on Monday.

I would like to acknowledge the mud army volunteers, Holloways Hub crew, the Rotary clubs for their countless sausage sizzles that fed everyone, the GOPIO community, the Yellow Jackets of Latter Day Saints, the Cairns community Christmas present drive, the Cairns community flood appeal team, the beaches community Christmas luncheon crew and the Machans Beach Hub, which are still supporting and feeding flood victims to this day. I would also like to acknowledge the incredible small business community that donated and helped out so much, and the Cairns Regional Council teams and TMR workers who worked around the clock and throughout Christmas. At one point, we nearly ran out of drinking water. I also thank the geotechnical director, Jun Sugawara, who gave critical advice to assist the TMR team to get many of our roads operational.

There is still a long journey ahead for many people and businesses. Unfortunately, the devastation and suffering will continue for some time to come.


### **Gendered Violence; Cooper Electorate, Community Organisations**

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (1.10 am): We have just experienced the national period of 16 Days of Activism, which is a time to recognize the urgency for all of us, but particularly our leaders and our decision-makers, to be accountable and to take bold steps to stop violence against women worldwide. There is a crisis here. Last year, globally, a woman or girl was killed by her partner or a family member every 10 minutes. In Australia, two in five women, which is nearly 40 per cent, have experienced violence since they were 15. Last year we had a 28 per cent increase in women being killed in Australia at the hands of a current or former partner. This year we have had an absolute shocker: the statistic used to be that in Australia a woman was killed every nine days; this year the statistic is that in Australia a woman is killed, mostly by a man, every six days. That is extraordinary.

Despite this crisis, not one word about it has been spoken by our Premier during the 16 Days of Activism period. We have not heard one word to acknowledge the pain, stories and experiences of Queensland women. At the election, Queenslanders spoke and told us that they want to feel safe. Safety is not an exclusive right. It is a right we all have. It is a right that all people in Queensland have and it is a right that all women in Queensland have. Gendered violence is the fastest growing crime in Queensland. When those opposite talk about rising crime numbers and victim numbers, what they fail to say is that the majority of those victims are women who have experienced violence at the hands of their partner or former partner. The picture is far more confronting if you look at our First Nations women, who represent a whopping 20 per cent of women murdered in Australia yet represent just 2.5 per cent of women in our population. It is essential that this government continues the important work that our government commenced in addressing violence against women. I am concerned that the ministerial charter letter for the Minister for Women does not make one mention of violence against women.

While I am on my feet, I take the chance to thank some local services that are bringing incredible Christmas cheer to our community. I thank our Rotary club, which is doing a fantastic job of coordinating our Christmas sleigh and the Dorrington Park Carols by Candlelight, and our Lions club is always helping out at this time of year with Christmas festivals. I also thank Paddington Terraces 4064, The Gap Creatives and The Gap She Shed, which have all hosted some fantastic Christmas markets that support small businesses in our local community. I thank them for their continued services at this time of year and wish my electorate and everyone here a very merry Christmas.

### Burnett Electorate, Schools

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (1.13 am): It is school awards season and it has been a privilege to move around the electorate to those wonderful events. To say that I am proud of the young achievers in the Bundaberg and the Burnett electorates would be an understatement. Their hard work, perseverance and dedication have paid off. Tonight I would like to highlight the achievements of some of those exceptional young people, their teachers and their schools.

On Thursday last week we started at the top end of the electorate at the Miriam Vale State School awards night. It was an honour to be there and witness the students receiving recognition through the awards.

Tuesday was a big day for awards. I kicked off the morning at Burnett Heads State School, where the teachers and students always go above and beyond through a program called Amazing Shake. I give a shout-out to Mr Standfast and Mrs Childs, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure the program happens each and every year.

On Tuesday we also went to Elliott Heads State School for their awards ceremony, and I give a huge shout-out to Principal Nichola Lister. Principal Lister is constantly advocating for her students to make sure they have access to as many opportunities as possible. When Nichola is not in the classroom, she is assisting her staff. I have enjoyed working alongside Mrs Lister over recent months to make sure there was funding for a memorial bench for a treasured teacher aide, Denise Lee.

A big congratulations to all of the students at Woongarra State School, Kepnock State High School, Bundaberg State High School and Bundaberg Christian College. We have had great nights at their schools witnessing the achievements of their students.


Rewind a few weeks and I had a fantastic morning at the Burnett Youth Learning Centre. Again, it is another great school which consistently advocates for their students and staff. After years of campaigning, it was great to deliver an infrastructure upgrade on Goodwood Road at the entrance to the school earlier this year.

I give a shout-out to Lily and Reese from St Luke's Anglican School. Their awards night was a great night. I was able to present the Humanitarian Award and the Hinkler Lions Service Award to these star students.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the schools across the region which are involved in my act of kindness awards. Each month we aim to recognise a student who has shown kindness and generosity at their school. Thank you to this year's schools: Bororen State School, Miriam Vale State School, Agnes Water State School, Discovery Coast Christian College, Wartburg State School, Elliott Heads State School, Burnett Heads State School, Bargara State School, St Luke's Anglican School and Alloway State School. I look forward to continuing this program with them into 2025.

As the year comes to an end, it is important that I extend my gratitude to the teachers, parents and staff who support and guide these students. Their tireless efforts are integral to the success of these schools. I also acknowledge the youth in our communities. There is a lot said about youth crime and the youth in our communities, but at these awards nights it is really refreshing to see that our communities are on a good trajectory going forward. I wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

### Mount Isa Mines

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (1.16 am): I rise again to talk about Mount Isa Mines and copper production and the threat from having a poor corporate citizen out there in Glencore as a miner here in Queensland. I say that again: a poor corporate citizen. This company has said, 'It's getting too tricky for us. We've got six big copper mines around the world and we'd rather invest there.'

The House needs to know—and particularly those members in Townsville—how big an issue this is, not just for Mount Isa and the north-west but for all of North Queensland. This is a really big deal. This affects 1,200 copper jobs and all of the other jobs that flow along with that. If you compromise the copper mine, you compromise the supply to the copper smelter. The copper smelter feeds the acid plant, owned by Incitec Pivot. It takes the sulphur emissions off the copper smelter and creates the acid, and there is a dire national shortage of acid at the moment in Australia.


That acid goes on rail to the Incitec fertiliser plant, and that is another big employer which has mostly Townsville and Brisbane employees. They are the biggest rail user on that rail line and it is fully cost recovered. It is the only piece of rail track in Queensland that is fully cost recovered from all of the customers, so the fewer customers you have on that rail line the less viability you have. The rail costs

there right now are three to four times the next highest rail charges in Australia. It has the highest rail charges in Australia already but that will be exacerbated if this copper mine shuts down. Then there is the acid that is sold from Sun Metals Zinc in Townsville. They profit from setting it out to the fertiliser plant, and that compromises their viability now.

The acid plant, the fertiliser plant, Sun Metals Zinc and the copper refinery in Townsville are all compromised because of the smelter. All of this comes back to the port, the rail and the electricity—all of the assets that you build. Everything has this symbiotic relationship and falls back to this copper mine. We cannot control a lot of things, but what we can control is what we do with our mining leases and the environmental impositions we put on these companies if they do not want to play ball. They can say, 'It's getting a bit tricky for us. If we're going to invest \$100 million or \$200 million to get through the next few years, we'd rather do it in Africa or South America where we get a better return on our investment.'

If there are other mining companies that can get in there and use that same asset, we should assert ourselves as a state to say those other ones cannot be on there: 'You either use it or lose it. Get out of there.' Glencore are turning their nose up at Queensland and saying, 'We'll do whatever we want here.' It does not have to be like that. We do not have to compromise the port, the economy of Townsville, the rail and every other asset that relies on having these resources used productively for the people of Queensland.

### Thuringowa Electorate, STEAMLabs Community Club

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (1.19 am): I would like to take this opportunity to give a special shout-out to STEAMLabs Community Club. Started by Mr Andrew Schubert, it operates in my electorate of Thuringowa. Andrew established the STEAMLabs Community Club to create a place of innovation and exploration for children with autism spectrum disorder. The club focuses on delivering a hands-on experience for kids and teens with autism to engage with science, technology, engineering, arts and maths—hence STEAMLabs. Andrew created the after-school program after seeing the way in which his son was deeply engaged in learning STEAM in a hands-on way. Sometimes people with autism may need a little more time to learn STEAM subjects, which in most cases cannot be given in classrooms. I am happy to report that the club has been extremely successful, with over 150 visitors in the short 10 weeks it has been operating. A core group of 17 children attend the program every week. I am looking forward to joining the group next week.

I have had the absolute privilege of meeting Andrew and his son Ethan, who were regular visitors during the election campaign to my stall at the Willows Rotary Market as fellow stallholders. It was a pleasure to have Ethan visit my stall. He always had a smile on his face and asked when he could be on the news with me. However, he made it without my help and got his own media, so I thought it would only be right to have his name recorded in the parliament's *Hansard* tonight.

In the short time I have left, I congratulate those in the mighty electorate of Thuringowa who have graduated from school this year and those who are moving into high school. As the House adjourns for the last time this year I would like to wish all Queenslanders a merry Christmas and a safe holiday period, especially for our frontline workers who will continue to serve Queensland over the festive period.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 1.21 am (Thursday).

## ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Field, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Grace, Head, Healy, Howard, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, King, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Linard, Lister, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young