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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

### Wednesday, 21 May 2025

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## WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2025

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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.

### PRIVILEGE

#### Comments by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity, Apology



**Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (2.02 pm): On 3 April I made a statement in the House that the Leader of the Opposition had declined to meet with me. It has been brought to my attention that in a letter from the Leader of the Opposition dated 31 March he extended an offer to meet with the member for Gaven and me. I apologise for my statement and apologise to both the House and the member.

#### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 9 April 2025 the Manager of Opposition Business wrote to me alleging that the Attorney-General deliberately misled the House on 18 February 2025. The matter relates to statements made by the Attorney-General during the urgency motion for the Trusts Bill 2025. I consider the Attorney-General has made an adequate explanation. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity and member for Nanango.

I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

#### SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE

On 9 April 2025, the Manager of Opposition Business wrote to me alleging that the Attorney-General deliberately misled the House on 18 February 2025.

The matter relates to statements made by the Attorney-General during the urgency motion for the Trusts Bill 2025.

Specifically, the Attorney-General stated:

'Let's get on with it! Let's just move this bill.

...

We are not debating this today. I am really hoping that the opposition can just get on and allow us to do this within this time line.

...

...the former committee's report made those two recommendations and one, importantly, was that the lapsed bill be passed—let's get on and just get that done

...

it should be unnecessary to hold them up any longer.'

The Manager of Opposition Business argued that these statements were deliberately misleading because the government had opportunity to debate and pass the Trust Bill 2025, but had not done so at the earliest opportunity.

I sought further information from the Attorney-General about the allegations made against her, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Attorney-General submitted that the government deemed the Trusts Bill 2025 urgent so that it did not require the full six weeks of scrutiny of the portfolio committee system, considering its very similar predecessor, the Trusts Bill 2024, had already undergone committee scrutiny. She also noted it was for the government of the day to determine when Government Business was to be considered and that the Standing Orders did not specify a time for urgent bills to be debated.

The Attorney-General is entitled to state a preference for a bill to be passed quickly, but ultimately it is a decision for the government of the day when it is to be debated and the House when it is to be passed. The fact that government priorities may have overtaken the Trusts Bill 2025 since House declared it urgent, does not mean that the urgency of the bill in the mind of the Attorney-General is invalidated or that her statements are misleading.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, that I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

I have considered all of the material put forward by the Manager of Opposition Business and the Attorney-General and am of the view that the Attorney-General has made an adequate explanation.

Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 7 April 2025 the Manager of Opposition Business wrote to me alleging that the Premier deliberately misled the House on 12 March 2025. The matter relates to an answer to a question without notice. I consider the Premier has made an adequate explanation. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Premier and Minister for Veterans and member for Broadwater.

I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

#### SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE

On 7 April 2025, the Manager of Opposition Business and member for Springwood wrote to me alleging that the Premier deliberately misled the House on 12 March 2025.

The matter relates to an answer to a Question without Notice.

Specifically, the Premier stated:

'...there was a reason why the federal opposition leader was not at that meeting: it was because I did not invite him.'

The Manager of Opposition Business argued that these statements were deliberately misleading because the Federal Opposition Leader posted photos of a meeting with the Premier from the Disaster Management Centre on Facebook, and thanked the Premier for a briefing during his media conference outside the Centre.

I sought further information from the Premier about the allegations made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Premier submitted that he interpreted 'briefing' in the question to mean a briefing of the Queensland Disaster Management Committee that were occurring regularly at the disaster management centre during the cyclone Alfred event. He stated that the Federal Opposition Leader was not invited to these briefings, and did not attend those briefings. An examination of the Hansard transcript of the Premier's response supports this explanation.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, that I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

I have considered the material put forward by the Manager of Opposition Business and the Premier and consider the Premier has made an adequate explanation.

Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 9 April 2025 the member for Gaven wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations and the member for Lockyer deliberately misled the House on 12 March 2025. The matter relates to statements made by the Deputy Premier during questions without notice

and the member for Lockyer during the second reading debate of the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024. I consider this matter to be technical in nature. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations and member for Kawana and the member for Lockyer.

I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

#### SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE

On 9 April 2025, the member for Gaven wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations and the member for Lockyer deliberately misled the House on 12 March 2025.

The matter relates to statements made by the Deputy Premier during Questions without Notice and the member for Lockyer during the second reading debate of the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024.

On 11 April 2025, the member for Gaven again wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Premier had made similar statements on 1 April 2025 during Questions without Notice.

Specifically, the Deputy Premier stated on 12 March 2025:

'Those opposite have no record to be proud of in housing: not one house developed and built under their Housing Investment Fund'

And, the member for Lockyer stated:

'The \$2 billion to \$3 billion Housing Investment Fund was established but did not deliver one new house.'

On 1 April 2025, the Deputy Premier stated:

'The former failed planning minister did not use a cent of the Housing Investment Fund to build a new home in the state, not one house.'

The member for Gaven argued that these statements were deliberately misleading and provided evidence of the houses that had been delivered under the Housing Investment Fund (HIF).

I sought further information from the Deputy Premier and member for Lockyer about the allegations made against them, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

Both members submitted that they were referring to new houses being built and subsequently tenanted by the former government, not the purchasing of existing housing.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, that I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

This appears to be a matter of the kind originally described by Speaker Simpson on 16 October 2014 and expanded on by Speaker Pitt on 4 April 2022 when he stated: 'The nature of political debate is that members engage in argument by discussing opposing viewpoints or different opinions, oftentimes using different expressions, statistics or methods of calculation.'

In this matter, the member for Gaven, Deputy Premier and member for Lockyer are all referring to housing that has been funded using the HIF, however, the member for Gaven was including all housing, while the Deputy Premier and member for Lockyer explicitly referenced new houses, also known as new builds. As such, I consider this matter is within the realm of being technical.

Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Visitors to Public Gallery



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery today by Darren Zanow, former member for Ipswich West, as well as students and teachers from St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace in the electorate of McConnel and Robina State High School in the electorate of Mudgeeraba.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Police Resources



**Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.05 pm): Our police have been relentless in their efforts to make our communities safer. Under this government they have the support they need to protect Queenslanders. In January, we launched a bolstered State Flying Squad—the largest rapid response unit in Queensland police history. The State Flying Squad has been deployed to youth crime hotspots more than 20 times in the first three months of this year. Our government supports our police, and we are giving them the backup they need. We are delivering on our promise to boost the front line.

In our first 200 days of government, we have increased the Queensland Police Service headcount by 240, and there will be more. We have committed to delivering an additional 1,600 police recruits across Queensland by 2028, but it is increasing the net number of police that drives us. That is why we have a relentless focus on unplanned attrition in the QPS and convincing those who can stay to stay for longer. There are hundreds of recruits currently training at Queensland police academies and thousands more applicants in that pipeline. Our police are critical in tackling the youth crime crisis. New police data shows police made more than 4,000 youth arrests and laid more than 18,000 charges on young offenders during the first quarter of 2025.

With the first tranche of our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws already law, we have sent a strong message that serious offenders will be brought to justice. However, to address a generation of youth crime, we need permanent laws and a permanent police presence. That is why earlier this year, we locked in ongoing funding for the Queensland police Youth Crime Taskforce. The former government failed to fund permanently the Youth Crime Taskforce. It is just more evidence that Labor did not take youth crime seriously. Our government has given this taskforce the certainty, resources and powers they need to do their job properly. The Youth Crime Taskforce will now sit as part of our Crime and Intelligence Command, alongside other taskforces that are currently tackling drugs, homicide or organised crime. We are taking youth crime so seriously that we are treating it the same as crimes involving bikies or drugs.

Our police are working hard to restore safety to our communities, and we will always support them to keep Queenslanders safe. Adult Crime, Adult Time gives our police the tools they need to make our community safer, and this decision—along with early intervention and rehabilitation—locks in the resources to focus on closing the revolving door of youth criminals.

### **Police Resources; Wear Orange Wednesday**



**Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (2.08 pm): Today I am pleased to advise the House of how the LNP Crisafulli government is leading the way in the ongoing fight against youth crime. We committed to giving police not only the laws but also the resources they need, and we are doing exactly that.

Today we announced that the temporary Youth Crime Taskforce will transition to the Crime and Intelligence Command led by a permanent detective superintendent and a permanent assistant commissioner under Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Scanlon. This means young criminals will be investigated by the same command that investigates murderers, paedophiles, organised crime gangs and drug dealers. This change follows our announcement in January this year of an additional \$15.45 million over four years to fund this vital crime-fighting group. Regrettably, had the arrangements put in place by the former government been allowed to continue, funding would have dried up on 30 June this year and the valuable work being done would have ceased.

The improvements announced today have been requested and initiated by the Police Commissioner and I have every confidence in his decisions to direct staff and resourcing. The commissioner and his troops support the government's position on tackling youth crime, and I have been assured the transition of the temporary taskforce will enable a more integrated and strategic approach to tackling this problem. The police have the primary objective of fighting crime and keeping Queenslanders safe, and this government will offer all the support necessary to bolster these efforts.

Secondly, I would also like to advise that today is WOW Day—Wear Orange Wednesday—the national day of recognition for our State Emergency Service volunteers. One thing that stands out in the face of major disasters across Queensland is the way local communities pull together to help those in need. At the heart of this response are our SES volunteers, those who give of their time, energy and effort to assist those needing help. In times of trouble, the strength and resolve of our volunteers will always come to the fore.


I was delighted last week to attend the sod turning for a new SES depot at Deception Bay with the Mayor of the City of Moreton Bay, Peter Flannery, and the member for Redcliffe. The \$3.75 million



contribution from the Crisafulli government will assist this unit with new operational, training and storage space to accommodate existing membership and future growth.

This is a tangible demonstration of our support for our SES volunteers. It is the SES volunteers who underpin the great work the organisation does. Putting community before self and the safety of others above all else, our volunteers make immeasurable contributions. We thank them for their efforts and their willingness to serve. On behalf of the government and all of the House, I offer my personal thanks to the SES and its committed volunteers.

### Housing Supply

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.11 pm): The Crisafulli LNP government is delivering on our Securing our Housing Foundations plan through the unlocking of new homes, more land and additional infrastructure right across the state after a decade of neglect under those opposite. It is our plan to fix Labor's housing crisis and deliver a place to call home for more Queenslanders.

Queenslanders know how tough it is to get into the housing market at the moment because the Labor Party delayed approving new lots, sometimes for years. Under Labor, new housing approvals dropped 36 per cent, despite Queensland's significant population growth, locking a generation of Queenslanders out of the housing market, and forcing over 47,000 people onto the social housing waitlist. Queensland has the lowest rates of home ownership in the nation after a decade of Labor mismanagement. Labor has no credibility when it comes to housing.

In contrast, I am pleased to announce to the House that the Crisafulli government has recently unlocked over 2,400 lots for new homes across South-East Queensland, a significant step forward in addressing Labor's housing crisis. These decisions show that we are not just building the homes but creating vibrant, liveable communities where Queenslanders can live, work and play.

In the greater Flagstone priority development area, this month alone we approved 1,631 new lots to accommodate 4,500 residents. I asked Jock, my chief planning adviser in my office, 'How are our approvals going?' Jock said, 'Minister, these house-and-land packages are flying off the shelf at a rate we have never seen before, particularly in the last 10 years.' He said it. Then I said, 'You know what? It is about supply, supply, supply,' and also, I have to say, getting rid of a bad government which Queenslanders did in October. Supply is one thing, but getting rid of a bad Labor government is the second thing.

I was pleased to visit Flagstone recently where I saw firsthand the huge opportunities that exist in the area for new housing developments, as well as the work already underway, and it was great to be joined by the member for Scenic Rim on my recent visit. Construction in Flagstone has commenced with the first homes expected mid-2026, a great outcome for Queenslanders looking to get into the housing market.


The Crisafulli government will pull all the levers possible to solve the housing crisis, including the declaration of PDAs which, as we see with Flagstone, is assisting the fast-tracking of housing delivery while also ensuring the communities receive the right infrastructure at the right time. That includes my recent announcement—here is another one—that I have directed EDQ to declare North Harbour a priority development area, unlocking more than 3,700 houses in the City of Moreton Bay, a project that sat on the Labor government's desk for over 10 years. For the entirety of their time in office, it sat on their desk and never saw the light of day. Within six months, I have directed EDQ to make it happen. We are delivering homes and land right across the state. We need all forms of housing in Queensland, and they are being unlocked, thanks to the Crisafulli government.

Mr Speaker, the honourable members think it is Christmas, but it is not; we are just getting started, as I said last week. I am also excited to announce to the House the green light has been given for 782 new homes in Brisbane's inner suburbs and growth corridors at Indooroopilly and Milton, of which 150 of these homes will be dedicated, affordable housing. The LNP government is determined to work in close partnership with local government and communities to deliver essential housing infrastructure that aligns with the expectations of local communities. The government, meanwhile, is delivering on our Securing our Housing Foundations plan which will ensure every Queenslanders has a roof over their head, and we will deliver one million new homes by 2044.

Finally, I am excited to advise the House that this Friday, 23 May, applications for the landmark \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund will close. The first \$500 million round will be allocated from 1 July following the Treasurer's first budget in June. As you know, the RAF is open to landowners, local

governments and the community housing sector and will fund essential trunk infrastructure to unlock housing across the state with at least a billion dollars of that being spent in regional Queensland over the next four years. We know that housing pressure is not a problem just in the South East, but extends to rural and regional Queensland. That is why I have been so pleased to have been able to visit so many regional and rural towns in Queensland and to meet with regional councils to understand how we can partner to unlock housing for their residents. The government looks forward to receiving all the remaining applications for round 1 before Friday and fast-tracking development of new housing for all Queenslanders, no matter where you want to live.

### Budget

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.17 pm): We are continuing work on the Crisafulli government's first budget. It is an important step in the journey of restoring respect for taxpayers' money and returning a mature discussion as to how the budget works for Queenslanders, noting that the budget papers will never ever be used as an advertising gimmick. We are maintaining and growing services, much of which was left unfunded by the former Labor government, particularly in health and child safety.

For too long, productivity has been ignored in Queensland. We will drive a culture of productivity through our re-established Productivity Commission and end Labor's culture of poorly scoped and mismanaged capital projects.


As Labor's last budget update revealed, Queensland's debt is forecast to reach \$218 billion in 2027-28 with the highest debt per capita in the nation, even more than in Victoria. Even with that record debt, Labor left services unfunded and public servants facing an uncertain future. As Labor's last budget update revealed, glossy brochures and media announcements do not fund the service delivery Queenslanders deserve. It will take time, but we will repair Labor's fiscal vandalism.

We are committed to maintaining and improving funding to support service delivery, guaranteeing employment security across the Public Service, and delivering on our election commitments. There will be many fake scare campaigns run by the opposition in the next month and beyond, but we will not be distracted by their untruths and misrepresentations. The challenge facing Queensland is too great, and the damage left by Labor too vast, to be distracted from what must be done.

Today I have written to the federal treasurer asking that the re-elected Albanese government reconsider our government's request to remedy the injustice of the Commonwealth Grants Commission, which saw fit to take \$2.4 billion—and more than \$5 billion across the forwards—from Queensland to prop up the poorly performing state governments of NSW and Victoria.

I again call on the federal Treasurer to confirm that he will quarantine the \$7.2 billion Bruce Highway payments from GST calculations. If the federal Treasurer fails to do so, a further \$3 billion will be lost to the Queensland people. Unlike those opposite, who went silent on 50-50 health funding as soon as the politics did not suit them and have been cowardly in their silence in fighting for Queensland's fair share of the GST, we will never relent in advocating for Queensland's fair share—regardless of the colour of the government in Canberra. Labor have left a mess. We have been clear as to the challenge that faces us and the budget, but we are up to the challenge.

### Trade Mission, China and Hong Kong

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.20 pm): I rise to inform the House of the Crisafulli LNP government's successful trade mission to China and Hong Kong last week that has resulted in millions of dollars of new export deals for Queensland. With China accounting for more than \$43 billion in two-way trade, our trade relationship plays a crucial role in creating jobs in Queensland. I was pleased to reassure key stakeholders that Queensland now provides a stable investment environment underpinned by certainty and growth. Unlike Labor, who flailed about on the international trade landscape and failed to produce real, tangible outcomes for Queensland, the Crisafulli LNP government is securing trade relationships and producing solid trade outcomes.

I was pleased to share with trusted partners in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Shenzhen how well Queensland is navigating the current erratic trade environment. For example, after the US stopped exporting beef to China as trade tensions escalated, Queensland's beef exporters were able to step up and fill the void because China knows we are open for business. From February to May alone, there was a 36 per cent surge in Australian grain-fed beef exports to China—the bulk from Queensland. I also conducted breakthrough discussions in Shenzhen with the world's biggest gaming and movie tech

company, Tencent, which is looking to expand its operations. At a time where there is uncertainty in the movie production arena, the Crisafulli LNP government is pivoting in a show of support for Queensland's movie industry. Instead of throwing popcorn from the cheap seats, like the member for McConnel, we are focused on blockbuster trade deals.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Ms BATES:** Bring it on, Grace! During the mission I formally opened a new Trade and Investment Queensland office in Shenzhen, further cementing Queensland's presence in the fast developing Greater Bay Area. I am pleased to report that during my mission deals were signed in Shanghai featuring Queensland company Cangoe Power, that are partnering with ArcTech as part of a \$3 million joint venture to roll out battery storage projects—a real breakthrough for creating local jobs.


Before the trade mission, I released the *Queensland-China Trade and Investment Strategy 2025*, which was very well received amongst the key stakeholders we met during the trade mission. It is clear that Queensland is rebuilding credibility amongst our key trade partners under the Crisafulli LNP government. There is no doubt that we are getting the message to critical investors that Queensland is open for business. Hong Kong's respected English language newspaper, the *South China Morning Post*, featured an article on my mission and our objectives—a first in recent times for a visiting Queensland trade minister. Trade and Investment Queensland reports that the total media coverage to date relating to my China trade mission is some 42 million readers.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Once again, there is too much chatter in the chamber. I can start doing the warning list early, if you like. Silence in the chamber!

**Ms BATES:** I also attended Hong Kong's Hofex 2025, one of Asia's largest food, beverage and hospitality trade shows. I was accompanied by 15 Queensland companies, nine of which were from regional Queensland. Queensland has already generated 191 new leads and a pipeline for export outcomes valued at nearly \$4 million for the 15 participating companies at Hofex, with more expected over the coming weeks and months. I was ably assisted in market by TIQ's CEO and TIQ's Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner for the Greater China region, Rhett Miller, who has already started following up on the leads generated during our mission and will continue to do so to strengthen Queensland's relationship with this important market. Real outcomes for Queensland and our regional food suppliers have been delivered by the Crisafulli LNP government—unlike Labor, who could only deliver a wet lettuce when it came to trade.

### Nurses and Midwives, Wages and Conditions

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.25 pm): This month we celebrated both the International Day of the Midwife and International Nurses Day. I want to thank our 56,000 hardworking nurses and midwives across the state whose dedication to the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders is the foundation of our healthcare system. Our government is committed to supporting our valued nursing and midwifery workforce. This includes paying them; this includes making Queensland Health an employer of choice.

**Mr Crisafulli:** That would be a good start!

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I take that interjection from the Premier. Queensland already has the best wages and conditions for nurses and midwives in Australia. In fact, many other jurisdictions are only just starting to catch up. I am pleased to advise the House that earlier this month Queensland Health presented a comprehensive offer to the QNMU and the AWU for a new certified agreement for our nurses and midwives.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to QNMU Secretary Sarah Beaman on her recent re-election and to Simon Mitchell who has been elected President. I also acknowledge Sally-Anne Jones who stepped down from the presidency after holding that position since 2009, and who I had the good fortune to speak with at the nurses Anzac Day service that I attended in town just prior to Anzac Day. I thank them for the constructive working relationship that we have maintained. They understand the role and the needs of our health service.

Our offer to nurses and midwives delivers on our election commitment to maintain Queensland's nation-leading wages and conditions. Our offer includes a minimum wage increase of 11 per cent over the life of the agreement, including a significant 5.5 per cent government election commitment increase in the final year. This offer will keep our nurses' wages ahead of other competitive jurisdictions like Victoria.

Let me provide an example. Take a registered nurse in Townsville with five years experience. I will call that nurse Sam. Over the life of the proposed agreement, Sam's salary will increase by around \$19,980. By the end of the proposed agreement, Sam will have earned roughly \$35,000 more than their Victorian counterparts. Take a clinical midwife consultant on the Gold Coast with two years experience, who I will call Kirra. Over the proposed life of the agreement Kirra's salary will increase by around \$21,860. By the end of the proposed agreement, Kirra will have earned roughly \$94,300 more than their Victorian counterparts. Additionally, our offer includes generous allowances that will rise in line with wage increases such as professional development, nurse practitioner, on-call and relieving in-charge allowances.

This is a very significant offer that reflects the value the Crisafulli LNP government places on our nursing and midwifery workforce. We have been working in good faith to deliver pay rises to our nurses and midwives as quickly as possible. Our current offer of back pay to 1 April 2025 goes beyond the back pay provisions in the state wages policy. We know our health workers want to be focused on what they do best—providing world-class health care to Queenslanders closer to home when they need it.

I have directed Queensland Health to continue to engage positively and productively with the QNMU to reach an agreement. Our government is backing our health workers with nation-leading wages and conditions and is committed to attracting, recruiting and retaining the very best nurses and midwives in Queensland.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Miller, cease your interjections.

### Premier's Reading Challenge



**Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (2.29 pm): With 2025 being the Year of Reading in Queensland state schools, this year marks a fresh start for the Premier's Reading Challenge. Premier Crisafulli and I had the pleasure of launching the 20th year of the Premier's Reading Challenge at Carbrook State School on 8 May reading some Bluey stories with the year 1 students.

The Premier's Reading Challenge is an important initiative for all Queensland school students from prep to year 9 as well as children attending early childhood settings. This year will see teachers better supported with a fresh suite of resources, training and targeted master classes to put a renewed focus on teaching reading. This year teachers and students will, for the first time in many years, see a well-deserved and a well overdue injection of funding, a stark contrast to Labor's continual failure to fund our public schools adequately.

The Premier's challenge encourages children to develop a love of reading by completing 15 to 20 books by 22 August. The Crisafulli government has a plan to lift literacy results across Queensland and the Premier's Reading Challenge is a key part of that plan. We are determined to unleash Queensland kids' full potential in the classroom. That is why we are committed to reducing red tape for teachers so they can spend more time focusing on teaching and learning to boost maths and English standards.

In less than six months in government the Crisafulli government has achieved a massive win for Queensland schools that Labor could not deliver: the establishment of a new funding agreement with the Australian government. This is the biggest funding boost in Queensland's history. Labor had 10 years of debate and delay, a clear suggestion that they failed to take the ongoing growth, stability and security of Queensland children's education seriously, a very sad indictment indeed.

As of 21 May the combined number of schools and early childhood centres currently registered in the challenge is 904. We encourage all students, schools and early childhood centres to take up the Premier's Reading Challenge by registering on its website. There is a range of suggested books to suit all reading ages, abilities and interests. Everyone who completes the challenge will receive a signed certificate from the Premier—start signing, Premier—and schools with a 100 per cent participation rate will be in the running to win some great prizes.

Let's all work hard to continue improving literacy by encouraging Queensland children to read and participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge.

### Volunteering



**Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (2.32 pm): This week is an opportunity for all Queenslanders to

pause and recognise the strength, compassion and commitment of our volunteers right across this great state. It is National Volunteer Week; it is the perfect opportunity to recognise the invaluable work of Queensland's volunteers.

The Crisafulli government proudly celebrates the everyday Queenslanders who step forward not for reward or recognition, but because they care. Volunteers bring in an estimated \$117 billion for the Queensland economy each year, but the fact is the real value of volunteering can never be measured in dollars. From the SES—and I note today is WOW Day—and our rural firefighters to the school tuckshop and the local footy club volunteers, each volunteer's work is immeasurable and they are the heartbeat of communities across Queensland. We saw this firsthand in the three successive record-breaking natural disasters rocking Queensland this year: our volunteers are often the first to step up and the last to leave. They offer strength, support and hope when Queenslanders need it most.

To the Red Cross volunteers I met with the member for Thuringowa during the North Queensland floods, I say thank you. To the Lifeline volunteers I met on the Gold Coast with the member for Whitsunday who had flown from Ingham to be there to support those impacted by ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, I say thank you. To the chopper pilots I met with the members for Gympie and Gregory scouring the Channel Country when river gauges had been swept away and slinging fodder for starving cattle, I say thank you.

The Crisafulli government backs our volunteers. We understand that when we support our volunteers, we strengthen the very fabric of our communities. After years of Labor neglect, the Crisafulli government is shining a new light on volunteers. We do not take the work of our volunteers for granted; we are determined to make it easier for Queenslanders to give back.

Our parliamentary inquiry into volunteering is making solid progress. With over 600 written submissions, and public hearings across the state, volunteers' voices are being heard. To every Queenslanders pitching in, I say your selfless dedication, compassion and community spirit make our state stronger and kinder and more resilient every day and we say thank you.

### Tourism Events



**Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.34 pm): I am pleased to advise the House that under the Crisafulli government tourism in Queensland is alive and thriving. We are the home of the holiday and we are focused on making this incredible sector even better. Our government is going after bigger and better events following years of being held back by those opposite. More events mean more tourists spending more money in our small businesses run by Queenslanders right across the state, delivering a better lifestyle and a stronger economy. We want people to come for these world-class events and stay for the state.

This refreshed approach to tourism has been felt across the sector and I can share with the House a recent conversation I had with one event stakeholder. I was told that five years ago when they were trying to initiate discussions to come to Queensland there was no interest. Now since the Crisafulli government has been driving the agenda there has been a 'Team Queensland' attitude that has flowed across state and local government as well as the private sector, and with that 'Team Queensland' attitude we have gotten the deal done. I want to acknowledge and thank the industry; it is collaborating like never before.

What was the event I am referring to? It was none other than one of the world's most iconic live events, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. We know how much excitement this announcement has created. The tattoo is expected to attract 38,000 visitors to Queensland, generate 121,000 visitor nights and contribute up to \$39 million to the state's economy. I am pleased to advise that due to overwhelming demand, the Saturday performance has sold out and, in response, the tattoo has decided to add not one but two additional shows at Suncorp, which is a brilliant outcome. What started as two shows is now four shows. Go Queensland!

The great news does not stop there. Earlier this month Brisbane successfully hosted the largest ever Australian Tourism Exchange, otherwise known as ATE. ATE is Australian tourism's and the Southern Hemisphere's largest annual trade event that brings together Australian tourism businesses with global distribution partners and we took it to new levels. The four-day extravaganza brought together more than 2,800 delegates including more than 720 international buyers and 75 international journalists. ATE had the biggest ever delegation of Queenslanders. We took up a whopping 25 per cent of the entire trade show floor. That spirit of 'Team Queensland' was on display and we absolutely did not disappoint.

It would be remiss of me not to mention that at the start of that ATE week, TEQ launched our bold new brand, 'That Holiday Feeling'. If honourable members have not already seen the ad featuring Kita Alexander, please make sure they check it out. 'That Holiday Feeling' captures everything locals and visitors love about the state: the natural beauty, the energy of our cities, the warmth of our people and the unforgettable holiday memories made here.

I am also delighted to share that Bluey's World Brisbane has now welcomed more than 220,000 visitors since opening its doors to the Heeler house in November 2024. Our government has locked in an extension to keep Bluey's World until February 2026 due to extraordinary demand.

Hot off the press: the Brisbane Truck Show attendance numbers are in and I am pleased to advise that the total attendance reached almost 55,000 across the 3½ days. That is almost 12,000 more than the show in 2023, a growth of 28 per cent in total attendance. Now we look ahead to August 2025 when the Pacific Airshow returns to the Gold Coast. The air show is fast becoming a staple on the Australian major events calendar and a spectacular drawcard for domestic and international visitors with more than 270,000 spectators flocking to Surfers Paradise for a front row seat to the action, generating more than \$33 million for the local economy.

Our government is committed to delivering a fresh start for Queensland, and the tourism industry is absolutely reaping the benefits of our passion to take it to the next level.

### Small and Family Business



**Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (2.39 pm): The Crisafulli government is committed to helping small and family businesses across Queensland to achieve their full potential. For the first time in more than a decade, small and family businesses have a government that understands their value and backs them to deliver jobs for more than one million Queenslanders and supports them to generate more than \$130 billion for the Queensland economy. For the first time in more than a decade, small and family businesses have a government that has a clear plan, outlined recently when we released our *Small and family business first action statement*. This statement is underpinned by more than \$100 million in additional funding over four years to improve the operating business environment and provide targeted financial support.

This action statement shows the Crisafulli government is committed to supporting small and family business. Let us contrast that with the previous Labor government, which continued to burden small and family businesses with more and more red tape. In fact, according to Business Chamber Queensland's *Efficient regulation report 2023*, the burden of red tape on small and family business doubled in just two years under Labor, costing on average \$50,000 per year per business. Let me read some of the key outcomes from the *Small and family business first action statement*—

Make it easier to access government services

Tailored support to start, grow and thrive

Identify and respond to red tape and other pain points

Boost procurement opportunities

Importantly, the action statement is delivering on the priorities and commitments we made to small and family businesses ahead of last year's state election. We are putting the right settings in place to support the creation of more than 120,000 new Queensland businesses over the next seven years. That is more growth for Queensland communities, more jobs for Queenslanders and more benefits for the economy. This action statement is not only putting the right settings in place for small and family businesses but also creating the right conditions for existing businesses to grow and expand and thrive.

As we work to grow the number and profitability of small and family businesses across Queensland, we are still continuing to support small and family businesses recovering in disaster affected areas. I was pleased to announce recently, in conjunction with the Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers, that additional recovery grants have been activated for eligible small businesses impacted by the North Queensland tropical low in January and February. This extra support includes grants of up to \$15,000 to support small businesses across eight local government areas to meet essential costs, including wages, salaries and operational expenses. The total funding of \$15 million is available under the Crisafulli government and Australian government's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. For detailed information on the grants, our action statement or even Small Business Month events, please visit [business.qld.gov.au](https://business.qld.gov.au).

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Sexual Offences, Legislative Reform; Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



**Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.42 pm): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. notes that the former Labor government referred to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council a referral which resulted in a report entitled *Sentencing of sexual assault and rape; the ripple effect*.
2. notes that the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council undertook extensive consultation with Queenslanders, experts and stakeholders over an 18-month period, which resulted in 28 recommendations.
3. notes that the Crisafulli LNP government only took legislative action to implement four of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council recommendations this week after public calls by the Labor opposition.
4. notwithstanding anything contained within standing and sessional orders under the provisions of standing order 137, the Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 be declared an urgent bill and not stand referred to a committee and be considered this sitting week;

That all stages of the bill be completed during this week's sitting before 9.00 pm on Thursday; and

If all stages have not been completed by 9.00 pm Thursday, the Speaker shall put all remaining questions necessary to pass the bill including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill without further amendment or debate.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time today will cease at 3.44 pm.

### Women and Girls' Health Strategy



**Mr MILES** (2.44 pm): My question is to the Treasurer. Last sitting week the Treasurer said in respect of the Women and Girls' Health Strategy that 'funding will continue'. Leaked emails dated before the Treasurer's answer reveal funding for the Ready, Set, Grow program under the Women and Girls' Health Strategy would not continue. Was the Treasurer unaware at the time that the funding had been cut?

**Mr JANETZKI:** The opposition leader knows that that is not the case and funding will be continuing, and it is as straightforward as that. Already today the Premier has confirmed that and the health minister has confirmed that. It is absolutely clear because it is important to us that funding for the Women and Girls' Health Strategy continues. It is absolutely fundamental and we fully believe in it, and that has been confirmed today. That has been confirmed multiple times today and it is clear that any suggestion that that funding is ceasing is wrong. Any suggestion that that funding is ceasing is simply wrong, and those opposite know it and any correspondence that suggests that that funding is ceasing is incorrect. It is incorrect and does not reflect the decision of either the health minister or the government. We cannot be any clearer in relation to that because we believe in the importance of that funding.

Let me draw a contrast between those of us on this side of the House who care about delivering services to Queensland—and funding them—and those opposite. If we look at the black hole in service delivery funding from those opposite, it is pretty clear actually that those on the other side of the House would not have funded this health strategy. They would not have funded it because they had not put the money in the budget. Those opposite had not put the funding in the budget. There is an absolute—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is way too much noise in the chamber.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under 118(b) in relation to relevance. I appreciate the Treasurer addressing the preamble, but the specific question was about whether he knew at the time that the funding was intended to be cut when he made the statements in this House during the last sitting. Did he know at that time?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, it is a point of relevance; that is all you need to put forward.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I have been absolutely clear about the position, and those opposite know it. I made it abundantly clear three weeks ago that the funding would continue. In fact, seeing as those opposite and their mistruths are not called out, this is actually an opportune time for us to call out their untruths because those opposite peddle untruths regularly inside this House and outside it. Those opposite know

my position was clear and I in fact said three weeks ago that there should be more funding and more initiatives. I have made it absolutely clear, and those opposite know it. The truth is that the contrast could not be any clearer between those of us on this side of the House who will fund what is necessary and those on that side of the House who simply never funded the service delivery that Queenslanders deserve.

### **Women and Girls' Health Strategy**

**Mr MILES:** My question is to the Premier. Today the Premier said when asked about cuts to the Women and Girls' Health Strategy—

... if there's any correspondence that says anything to the contrary, it's not the case and it hasn't come from the government.

I table a leaked email from Queensland Health that reveals the Ready, Set, Grow program was being cut due to 'a shift in government priorities'. Can the Premier confirm if Queensland Health is part of the government?

*Tabled paper:* Email, dated 9 May 2025, from Director, Queensland Health, regarding the notification of closure of the Queensland Puberty Health Education Project.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question and reiterate very clearly that the Women's and Girls Health Strategy will be funded and it will be funded in full. It is a commitment we took to the election and I am committed to making sure that occurs. The honourable Treasurer will, in the next couple of weeks, explain some of the programs that were not funded and some of the commitments that were made. When it comes to the particular initiative that the opposition leader raises, there is a contract in place and the contract will be honoured. I said that before the election.

**Ms Fentiman:** That's not what you said.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I will take the interjection from the shadow Treasurer. I would be interested to know when she told the person beside her when she was doing the story. I want to make this observation—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! We need to hear the answer from the Premier.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** There is a song about living on borrowed time, but we will not go there at the moment.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Waterford, you are warned.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** It is not a good time for the member for Pine Rivers to be interjecting about anything at the moment. There are a lot of eyes looking at the member for Pine Rivers at the moment. Borrowed time might be some of the words.

I want to repeat that any correspondence does not reflect the view of the government. It does not. I want to be upfront about that. The reason why I can say that categorically is the Treasurer has confirmed that funding for the strategy remains and he has done it in this House. The health minister, in fact, confirmed it some months ago and I have repeatedly said the same. Above all, I come down to my underlying principle: good governments honour contracts that are in place. The reason why you do it is it is about continuity and about stability.

I understand what those opposite are trying to do. They have a certain strategy that they are trying to whip up. It is not working real well for them—not much is at the moment. What this has to be about is making sure that people know they can count on words when they matter. People need to know that a commitment matters, and we have committed to funding it. People need to know that contracts matter, because that is important for continuity. As I said, and I will reiterate, if there is any correspondence that says anything to the contrary it does not reflect the view of the government—neither myself, the minister, nor the Treasurer.

If the opposition are asking this question in order to give confidence to people, allow me to give them confidence that that program will continue because of that. I know that would be the reason why the opposition leader has asked the question today. I am not sure about the other person who leaked it in the first place.

### **Community Safety**



**Mr FIELD:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Will the Premier update the House on how the Crisafulli LNP government is restoring safety where you live and supporting our frontline officers and can the Premier outline any alternative approaches?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the honourable member for the question. At the start I say that everything we do is about putting victims first. When I first met the honourable member it was in his capacity as someone who had been the victim of crime. His experiences drove many of the people on this side of the House to put forward a series of policies. His honesty and the views of his family and the way that he conducted himself drove us to do better for victims of crime. I want to thank the member for that and for the role he is playing in this House.

The honourable member asked about bolstering resources and I want to give a statistic that shows how many steps we have taken in backing police. I do want to thank the police minister. In my ministerial statement I mentioned that in 200 days of this government we have added a net increase of 240 additional police. Now I want to reveal to the House another figure. That is what we have done in 200 days. In the four years of the former government they could only add 174. We added 240 additional, extra, in 200 days and they could not even get to 200 in four years. That is the record of those opposite.

I say to the honourable member, yes, as a result of stronger laws—and we will get an opportunity tonight to see the inner machinations of the Labor Party at work—as a result of early intervention being embarked on, as a result of the police minister talking to and assuring those frontline officers that change is on its way, we are seeing the green shoots and we will continue to drive it forward. After 10 years of one-way traffic, of weakened laws, of crime increasing constantly, we are finally seeing a turn in the tide. It will take some time because it took some time to get here—10 years.

The honourable member asked me about contrasts. Let me give some contrasts. Those opposite mocked victims. Those opposite did not believe the victims. Those opposite said they were making up stories. Those opposite said it was scaremongering. They said it was a media beat-up. The Leader of the Opposition said it was about the TV stations being addicted to vision. Can you believe the Leader of the Opposition would blame the media for reporting it? We do acknowledge the victims, we do acknowledge the youth crime crisis and every day we will drive down those repeat offenders because we believe in dealing with victims of crime.

### **Women and Girls' Health Strategy**

**Mr BAILEY:** I have a straightforward question to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Leaked emails reveal the minister's department was conducting an internal review of the Women and Girls' Health Strategy programs. Can the minister categorically rule out that neither the minister nor his office was aware of the internal review and any impending cuts to the strategy—yes or no?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We will have silence before we go to the minister.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** The Crisafulli LNP government remains committed to ensuring women and girls can get access to health services no matter what their postcode is. It is part of the commitment we took to the last election when we spoke about easier access to healthcare services no matter where you live and it was part of our commitment when we spoke about healing Labor's health crisis. We remain fully committed to doing that.

As I have said continuously, and as the Premier has only just said, I have been asked this question on a number of occasions and I have said the full \$248 million allocated to these programs will continue to be funded. In fact, under that strategy we have commenced service delivery this year at integrated health hubs in Caboolture and Cairns, services including health responses to domestic, family and sexual violence amongst others. We have delivered a statewide point of contact for women to seek mental health support and referral services, a program I launched with the Minister for Women, including counselling following domestic, family and sexual violence. We have launched the Women's Wellbeing Line to provide virtual services and in-person counselling and First Nations peer support services in South Brisbane that commenced after this government was elected in December 2024. I have visited A Brave Life where we spoke to people like Mel and her daughter Kenzie, who I visited at the Australian College of Midwives Conference and at their facility.

Our actions are committed, and we remain committed, to the Ready, Set, Grow campaign which is a campaign in terms of health education in upper primary schools across six schools in Cairns and South Brisbane. That campaign is fully funded and fully committed.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. We know about the backflip. We want to know whether he was aware, yes or no.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I find the minister has been relevant to the question. He still has a minute to go. He has a record of going very late in the question.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Bleijie:** Do them slowly.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Keep asking. I want to do you slowly.

**Mr Power** interjected.

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

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before we come back to the minister, I want the member for Logan to be clear that he is on the warning list.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** As part of the Women and Girls' Health Strategy, we will deliver that service in relation to the Ready, Set, Grow program, which is \$2.96 million allocated over four years to deliver that service. We have unequivocally guaranteed funding for the Women and Girls' Health Strategy. We will continue to deliver it. Importantly—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question was very specific: it asked the minister to categorically rule out that neither he nor his office—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am hearing a point of order and I will hear it in silence.

**Mr BAILEY:** It was a straightforward yes or no question: would he categorically rule out that neither he nor his office was aware of the internal review or any impending cuts to the strategy. He has not addressed the question in 2½ minutes. I request that he be drawn back to the actual question rather than continue with this waffle.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you have the call.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** In coming to office, what we discovered with respect to the \$247 million was that \$157 million of it was not funded. There was no money in the budget. All there was is what was funded out of the CMB. The answer to the member's question is, no.

### Police Resources

**Mr BAILLIE:** My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Can the minister update the House on how the Crisafulli LNP government is ensuring police are well supported and resourced, and is the minister aware of any differing approaches?

**Mr PURDIE:** I thank the member for the question. I know how passionate and committed he is to restoring safety to his community in Townsville, as are the other members who represent Townsville. It was great being there again just this week gone to talk to the police, not only at the Townsville station but also at the Mundingburra and Kirwan stations. In fact, I have visited Townsville a few times in the past few months that I have had this job, as have the Premier, senior ministers and other members on this side of the House.

**A government member:** We almost live up there.

**Mr PURDIE:** That is exactly right. The only people visiting Townsville more than the Premier, ministers of this government and me are members of the newly bolstered State Flying Squad. It is the largest rapid response group in the history of the Queensland Police Service. In January, we announced that we would triple the size of the squad to 58 dedicated full-time detectives and plain-clothes constables. They travel the state to crime hotspots to help our frontline police drive down crime. In the most recent of a number of deployments undertaken by the State Flying Squad—and it was great to announce this last week—they arrested 17 juvenile offenders on over 100 charges. That is 100 crimes committed.

Unfortunately, we know that Townsville is the epicentre of Labor's youth crime crisis. That is not only a perception of crime, which we hear those opposite talk about, but the statistics show a 55.5 per cent increase in crime over nine years under the soft-on-crime Labor government. That is why we are doing everything we can not only through the laws that we are passing at the moment but also through the resources we are providing such as to the State Flying Squad.

Today it was great to stand with the Premier, other ministers and the Police Commissioner to announce the permanent funding of over \$15 million to make the Youth Crime Taskforce permanent. Those opposite thought that youth crime was a political problem and a perception and that all they needed to do was to stand up a taskforce but not fund it into the future. In contrast, we are taking a vastly different approach. We are making these squads permanent and giving them the funding they need. Today it was great to stand with the commissioner when he spoke about making the temporary Youth Crime Taskforce permanent. It will fall under the state Crime and Intelligence Command with the homicide squad, the organised crime squad, the drug squad and others. The commissioner said—

This move reflects a long-term commitment to tackling youth crime as a core policing responsibility, not a temporary initiative.

The decision to transition from a temporary taskforce to a permanent youth crime group ensures that the QPS has the leadership, resources and coordination required to enhance our response to preventing youth crime in a sustainable intelligence-led way. We will continue to give the commissioner and all of our frontline police the tough laws and resources they need to restore safety where you live, particularly in Townsville and North Queensland but also right across Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

### **Women and Girls' Health Strategy**

**Ms GRACE:** My question is to the Minister for Education. Today the government backflipped on its decision to cut the Queensland puberty health education project from Queensland classrooms because Labor brought the cut to light. Can the minister categorically rule out that neither the minister nor his office were aware that the work planned and underway would not continue?

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There are imputations contained within the question. I ask the member for McConnel to table any evidence or things to authenticate or substantiate the question as asked.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, can you authenticate the substance of the question? Do you have it there? Will you table that?

**Ms GRACE:** Speaker, it has been tabled but I am happy to table it again.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will allow the question as asked.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Can I see a copy of the tabled paper to verify that it has something to do with me? This is very interesting.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The request to see that material should not trigger that outburst.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I am happy to answer the question. The tabled document has no relevance to my department although I thank the Clerk for it. Given that the question implies, through its very asking, that my department is or my ministerial office is somehow involved, I would have thought that the tabled paper would have the words 'education' or 'schools' in it somewhere. All of the redacted parts are clearly to do with the health minister.

For the sake of those opposite and for the sake of the House, I am very happy to speak about the Women and Girls' Health Strategy and its importance in our schools. I would also say that it is getting a bit tiring to hear those opposite constantly using female and women's issues—

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Just to clarify for the minister's benefit: the tabled document actually has 'EDQ' on it.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister has seen a copy of the paper.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We will have silence. A lot of warnings are going to be handed out very soon.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** As I was saying, to hear those opposite constantly using women's and girl's issues as a supposed weapon against this side is something that really should cease in the interests of women and girls across the state. That is something that we heard from those opposite throughout the 57th Parliament.

I am surrounded by strong women wherever I go—in my family, to the north, east and west of me in this House, throughout my office and across the state. Those opposite are using these issues as some sort of subliminal weapon that they believe will have an effect on us. That needs to cease. They

cannot talk about the numbers that we have in the House anymore because we have an amazing number of strong women who were elected in the last election.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was about whether or not the minister was aware of cuts to the joint initiative of the Department of Education and the Department of Health. His response has not been relevant to that question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The point of order was on relevance. You heard the point of order, minister. Could you address that, please?

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Yes, I can confirm that there will be no cuts to this particular program—ruled out by the Treasurer, ruled out by the Premier, ruled out by the health minister. They may be looking for an answer from me, but just because the word ‘schools’ appears does not mean that my department or my ministerial office is aware of it. We are committed to women and girls. Those opposite are trying to weaponise an issue that really goes to the heart of whether they are interested in women and girls or whether they are trying to paint this side as being anything but. We are dedicated to the wellbeing of women and girls. We have other consent and respectful relationships—

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As the member who asked that question, I take offence to the inference that we are weaponising women and girls, and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr SPEAKER:** That is not a point of order. Actually, you are warned. Minister, you have eight seconds left.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** We are committed to making sure that young women are supported throughout their schooling and beyond, and we will continue to run those programs. We support the consent and respectful relationships education programs, and I commend the health minister for the work that he has done in this area as well.

*(Time expired)*

### Government Accountability

**Mr HUTTON:** My question is to the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training. Can the minister inform the House how the LNP Crisafulli government is ensuring respect for taxpayers' money, and is the minister aware of any concerning uses of taxpayers' money?

**Ms BATES:** I thank the honourable member for Keppel for the question, and I know how passionate the member is about ensuring respect for Queensland taxpayers' money. I have to say that the current member for Keppel is the nicest member for Keppel we have had in the last 10 years.

We know those opposite do not respect taxpayers' money: they overspent some \$9 billion in the 2023-24 financial year alone, the largest blowout in more than a decade. It was clear that the member for Murrumba, the member for Woodridge and the member for Waterford had no idea, no plan and no respect. Mr Speaker, I just wanted to check whether the member for McConnell is warned.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will look after that. You continue with your answer.

**Ms BATES:** Instead, we can see where the Leader of the Opposition's priorities lie. We have seen those opposite run a protection racket for the member for Stafford while they needed his factional vote. We saw female members of the Labor Party not wanting to sit next to the member for Stafford, and the member for Murrumba did nothing. The member for Murrumba proposed the member for Stafford to the Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee—with a pay rise of \$30,000, care of the Queensland taxpayer—even when he knew of the alleged DV offence. I table that letter to the Clerk.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 17 February 2025, from the Leader of the Opposition and member for Murrumba, Hon. Steven Miles MP, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, regarding a change of membership of portfolio committees within the Queensland Parliament.

For a member who supposedly is an Independent, the member for Stafford's socials still say he is a Labor member. I table a screenshot of his Twitter page.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from social media, undated, from the page of the member for Stafford, Mr Jimmy Sullivan MP.

The member for Stafford's website is still styled in the red of a member of the Labor Party, where he talks proudly about being a member of the former Miles Labor government. I table a screenshot of the member for Stafford's website.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, undated, from webpage in relation to the member for Stafford, Mr Jimmy Sullivan MP.

Yesterday, the member for Stafford said to the media he would only vote with the Labor Party anyway. Meanwhile, the Leader of the Opposition and the Labor Party continue to accept tens of thousands of dollars from the Electoral Commission in policy development payments every year because the member for Stafford was elected under the Labor brand. Will the Leader of the Opposition show some leadership and direct the Labor Party to return those funds to the Electoral Commission of Queensland? What a disgrace from those opposite. They talk the talk but they do not walk the walk. The member for Ferny Grove stood in this place and proclaimed—

**Mr Furner** interjected.

**Ms BATES:** I can say other things the member for Ferny Grove said, but he said in this place—

The conduct you walk past is the conduct you accept and condone.

**Mr Furner** interjected.

**Ms BATES:** What you do matters. Actions speak louder than words.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Ferny Grove, you are warned. Minister, you have 10 seconds left.

**Ms BATES:** Actions speak louder than words and the actions of those opposite speak volumes. The member for Murrumba sat on his hands and did nothing about the member for Stafford for months. Shame on him.

*(Time expired)*

### Health Workforce

**Mr DICK:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Whistleblowers have told the opposition that the Crisafulli LNP government wants to roll back protections against contracting out health worker jobs. Will the minister rule out using EBA negotiations to change the rules about contracting out public health jobs and services?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I thank the former health minister, who used to lock the door between his ministerial office and his staff—‘I’ll just put a PIN code on there.’ I thank that member for the question.

I made a fulsome statement to the House in relation to the EB negotiations that are going on between the government and the nurses. Let me talk about those EB negotiations the member raised. Unlike those opposite, we commenced negotiations on the enterprise bargaining agreement—EB12—months before the existing EB expired on 31 March. We are unlike those opposite, who extended EB10 for a year—they could not walk and chew gum at the same time—because of COVID and then did not commence negotiations until after the previous EB had expired. It took another eight months to come to a resolution and then it took another month to take effect.

We commenced our negotiations on the enterprise bargaining in December last year. I met with the Secretary of the QNMU. I have her phone number. She sends me text messages.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Exactly—the Deputy Premier has met with them. They speak with the Premier in relation to this matter. We are unlike those opposite, who close and lock the doors to those they regard as their political foes. Despite the fact that the QNMU spent half a million dollars campaigning against the LNP, we respect their role in society and their role in representing our hardworking nurses and midwives. As a result, as I have indicated, we have offered nation-leading wages and conditions. I went through some of the detail in relation to the nation-leading wages and conditions.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. We would like the minister to address the matter of contracting out.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you have heard the point of order.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** With respect to the negotiations regarding the enterprise bargaining agreement, as the member for Woodford—not Woodford—

**Government members:** Woodridge.

**Mr Minnikin:** He is no longer at Greenslopes.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Greenslopes, Woodridge, Woodford—we wonder where it will be next.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Wherever opportunity knocks and the factional numbers are going, that is where he goes.

*(Time expired)*

**Ms MARR:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Waterford, are you—

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I am seeking the call.

**Mr Bleijie:** No. The call has already been sought.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Thuringowa.

**Ms MARR:** I am sorry, but I did.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I got the call.

**Ms MARR:** No, absolutely not.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We will go to the member for Thuringowa for her question.

### Workplace Safety

**Ms MARR:** My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Will the Deputy Premier explain how the Crisafulli LNP government is actively supporting safe workplaces with the tightening of right-of-entry laws, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any instances where workers have been denied a right of entry?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the honourable member for the question. The LNP absolutely believes every Queenslander should feel safe at work. Our reforms that we introduced with respect to right of entry to protect workers on job sites by reintroducing 24-hour right-of-entry permits are working, with a marked decrease in right-of-entry matters during our term—with Workplace Health and Safety Queensland assisting with only five suspected contraventions between 29 November last year and 19 March this year. In the two quarters prior to the amendments in 2024, under the previous Labor government, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland routinely assisted with more than 50 requests for contraventions and assistance including relating to right of entry—five under this government; 50 in two quarters under the Labor government.

The honourable member asked about right of entry and whether right of entry has been denied to anyone. I think it has. I think the member for Stafford has been denied his right of entry to re-enter the Labor Party caucus. The Labor Party in this fake separation would have us believe that just because they put him on the crossbench all the matters are over and all is forgiven. We saw him here yesterday. Then overnight they obviously thought it did not work, so they pushed him another row back compared to where he was sitting yesterday. There is nowhere else for him to go.

This is a fake separation. How do we know this is a fake separation? I will tell you why, Mr Speaker. The day after he was apparently booted from the Labor Party the member for Stafford replied to a constituent on his Facebook page. They asked, 'Hey, Jimmy, are you still part of Labor??? What is going on?' The member for Stafford replied, 'I am still a member of the Labor Party.' I table that from Facebook.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, undated, from the Facebook page of the member for Stafford, Mr Jimmy Sullivan MP.

We talk about the protection racket from the member for Murrumba and the member for Woodridge, and here it is—and this is why it is a fake separation and why he is denied his right of entry back to the caucus; it is all baloney—you can go on to the Labor Party website right now, as I did before question time, and donate to Jimmy Sullivan, the member for Stafford. They are still accepting his donations!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Do not use props.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I table that, Mr Speaker.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, undated, from Australian Labor Party webpage titled 'We can't do it without you'.

You can click \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100 or more. What a fake separation. What a protection racket from the member for Murrumba. It is all for show. They did not want to deal with the issues of the domestic violence incident, so they just try to fake it: 'He's not part of us anymore.' No-one spoke up against the allegations against the member for Stafford. It was a protection racket. While they sit here and look down, they are taking his money right now.

*(Time expired)*

### Women and Girls' Health Strategy

**Ms FENTIMAN:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Given that the Premier, Treasurer and health minister have indicated they had no knowledge of the decision to cut the Ready, Set, Grow Program, who made the decision to review and cut funding for this program given that notice of this funding cut was communicated to stakeholders weeks ago from a director within Queensland Health?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I thank the member for Waterford, not Woodridge or Woodford, for her question. In doing so, I note the member for Waterford left Queenslanders with the worst hospital ambulance ramping rate. They were going to reduce it to 28 per cent within 12 months. Instead, what did we see month after month after month after month after month? It went up and up and up and up and left a mess that we have started working on to reduce that number. For the month of March we got it down to 40.1 per cent.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There will be no quarrelling across the chamber.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** We saw the elective surgery long waitlist grow and grow and grow to be the worst we have ever seen, with more than 64,000 people on the elective surgery waiting list. Relevantly—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members on my right!

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I have not even got to the stapler story yet, don't worry.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Are we all done? Minister, you have the call.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** The member for Waterford's legacy left us with a funding shortfall in the Women and Girls' Health Strategy of \$157.3 million. They were so committed to the Women and Girls' Health Strategy that they could not even put the money in the budget for it—

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

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

**Mr NICHOLLS:** On top of that, there was \$1.882 billion missing to support the existing enterprise bargaining agreement entered into with the nurses. This morning we have had a litany of questions—none of which has been able to show us up, none of which has been able to be backed up—all of which rely on innuendo, leaks and claims, all of which have been categorically denied. One thing they have not done—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question of the health minister was about who cut the funding to the program.

**Government members:** No-one!

**Mr SPEAKER:** The point of order is—

**Mrs Frecklington:** Actually Labor did!

**Mr SPEAKER:** I was ruling on the point of order. Member for Nanango, you are warned. Minister, I know you like to play right to the bell. You have 26 seconds left.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Speaker, I do not know how you could make such a claim but I accept it. Let me simply say: the premise of the question is wrong. There is no cut. Let's start there: there is no cut. The Premier has said it. The Treasurer has said it. I have said it. The education minister has said it. There has been no cut. There is no cut. They want to look right next door to where they are going.

*(Time expired)*

### Victims of Crime

**Mr VORSTER:** My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. Will the minister outline how the Crisafulli LNP government is actively supporting victims of crime, and is the minister aware of any instances where alleged perpetrators are being supported?

**Mrs GERBER:** Firstly, I want to thank the member for Burleigh for his advocacy. I would like to highlight the important work the member for Burleigh has done to support victims of crime. He has been

central to the commitment that we have made to bolster our laws and to ensure that victims of crime are supported and to hold perpetrators to account. We have acted on that with laws in this House. Just this morning I stood up with the Premier, the Attorney-General and the police minister with Queenslanders who have been victims of crime to support them with the laws that they need to be able to hold perpetrators to account. Voice for Victims were also there. I acknowledge Voice for Victims advocates who are in the gallery right now. Trudy Reading is up there; I can see Natalie Merlehan and George. I thank Voice for Victims for their advocacy, highlighting that real people—real victims—are being supported by the Crisafulli government.

Mr Speaker, do you know whom the Labor Party is supporting? The Labor Party is supporting the member for Stafford. Mr Speaker, do you know where the evidence for that is? The evidence is on the Labor Party website. The Labor Party website says, 'We can't do it without you. Donate now to Jimmy Sullivan, the member for Stafford'.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Do not use a prop.

**Mrs GERBER:** 'Donate now to the member for Stafford.' He is still a member of the Labor Party. The Deputy Premier has tabled the member's comment 'I'm still a member of the Labor Party'. He is still a member of the Labor Party. He has said that he will always vote for the Labor Party. I will table his comments. He said, 'I am Labor to my core. My intention is that I will only vote with the Labor Party on any issue. That is my view.' I table that.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Jimmy Sullivan—Channel 9 20 May 2025—First Day as Independent'.

Now we find out that he is still being financially supported by the Labor Party. He is a member of this House. Police were called to an alleged domestic violence incident, the Labor opposition kicked him out of caucus and they are still financially supporting him. They are supporting him. They are taking his vote and they support him financially, yet they are trying to tell Queenslanders they have distanced themselves from him. They are trying to convince Queenslanders that they do not support him. I am sorry, but if you are taking someone's vote, if you are supporting them financially and if you are ensuring that he is still in this chamber, then he is still a member of the Labor Party. He claims that himself. He claims that he is still a member of the Labor Party.

Those opposite need to come clean. They need to answer who, what, when. They need to explain to Queenslanders why he was kicked out of their caucus and they need to explain to Queenslanders why he still sits in this chamber, because they are still taking donations to support him being in this chamber. They are taking his vote, they are taking donations and he is still a member of the Labor Party. Those opposite have some serious questions to answer. This is a test of the member for Murrumba's leadership. What happened? Why did it happen? When did it happen? He needs to answer those questions now.

*(Time expired)*

### **Hinchinbrook Electorate, Infrastructure**

**Mr DAMETTO:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. With most land-based liabilities at Port Hinchinbrook now resolved, all efforts must focus on dredging the marina basin, One Mile Creek and replacing the conformed deed with an infrastructure agreement to create a developable asset. Can the Deputy Premier outline what work is being done to resolve these longstanding issues?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the member for Hinchinbrook for the question. It is an important question for his community. I acknowledge that we have met about this before. I have recently met with the mayor and officers of the Cassowary Coast council as well. It is an important issue for them. Incidentally, member, I think we are also meeting again tomorrow about this very issue. It is an important issue that we take seriously because in 2011 Cyclone Yasi dramatically affected the port of Hinchinbrook and it has never been the same since. There has been 10 years of inaction by the former Labor government with no resolution. I can assure the member for Hinchinbrook that we are this close to a resolution. In fact, when is the budget handed down?

**Mr Janetzki:** On 24 June.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I reckon we might have a solution on 24 June for the member for Hinchinbrook. Without giving anything away, we recently met the mortgagee with EDQ as well. I will be writing to the liquidator to ensure they are meeting their obligations to the people of that area. EDQ presented many options to me which varied from minimal intervention to maximum intervention to medium intervention. At the moment we are working with the department and Economic Development Queensland to look at what is the best solution. We recognise that, every time there is a severe weather event, challenges



occur. I also recognise that in that beautiful part of the world there is a public access boat ramp. The government's priority is making sure that you can get out through the channel through the public boat ramp. There is also private marina which is not in good shape.

We are actively as a government working through the issues. I want to thank the member, on behalf of his community, for raising these issues with me. As I said, EDQ presented various options to me which range from minimal intervention to maximum intervention. Shortly we will be able to explain to the member and work through with his local community and the local council what we believe are the first steps we ought to take to ensure we can particularly get access from the boat ramp out into the ocean through the port. It is an important area of Queensland and I would love to see it returned back to its glory days as it used to be.

There might also be opportunities for housing potential in that area with the Residential Activation Fund. These are the things I would like to discuss with the member tomorrow when we go through the meetings. I know EDQ have been keeping you and your community in the loop with council as well. It is an important issue. We will have to get a resolution soon. I would also say to the honourable member that it is not a cheap exercise. It is quite costly to look at the various options. That is why the government, in the budget considerations the Treasurer is considering now and will hand down in June, is considering what is in the best interests of that local community and the best financial way we can proceed forward while respecting Queensland taxpayers' money.

### **Olympic and Paralympic Games**

**Mr MOLHOEK:** My question is to the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Will the minister detail how the 2032 Delivery Plan is providing certainty ahead of the 2032 games, and is the minister aware of any alternative plans or lack thereof?

**Mr MANDER:** I thank the member for Southport for his question. Southport is the home of one of the legacies of the games, the Gold Coast arena, which is one of many that will be included in our 2032 Delivery Plan and announced this week formally to the International Olympic Coordination Commission that is visiting Brisbane. They have a spring in their step! The Premier, the Deputy Premier and I had an opportunity to share our delivery plan, and the utter relief in the room was palpable because now they know there is a plan. Mr Thomas Bach, the outgoing president of the International Olympic Committee, said yesterday—

Brisbane 2032 is on track and is on the right track.

Kirsty Coventry, the president-elect, shared the same sort of sentiments. Members of the commission this week said that the Delivery Plan is clear, methodical and detailed. As I said, their relief was so apparent. We are delighted to have them here as they look over our facilities. They also praised us for our grassroots sports Games On! program, which provides \$250 million for community sport across the state in all electorates.

One of them is the electorate of Pine Rivers, where we made a commitment of \$3.8 million for an upgrade of the clubhouse for the local football club. Once that occurred and we won the election, the member for Pine Rivers wrote to me to make sure that this commitment would be honoured. In that letter she said, 'The current infrastructure at the club is dilapidated and no longer fit for purpose. This is not acceptable.' Is it not amazing that when there was a change of government it suddenly became dilapidated? Sources from the council told me that they approached the minister on a number of occasions to get funding for this clubhouse but she refused, and it was not until the LNP candidate Dean Clements made the commitment that the member for Pine Rivers came scurrying along. Now on social media she is shamelessly trying to drum up a scare campaign by saying that we are not going to meet that commitment. What else does the member need? I have written to her twice. The department has written to her once. The department has rung the club. Because of the scare campaign, I personally rang the chair of the club to reassure them that we deliver on our promises. Unlike this side, we will deliver on every one of the 145 commitments we made. They keep on scaremongering, but it is only the LNP that will deliver on its promises.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I go to the next question, it has come to my attention that there are some games being played with microphones. We keep a full electronic log of who presses the button on their mics which I will be looking at.

### **Police Integrity Unit**

**Ms SCANLON:** My question is to the police minister. I refer to reports in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* that a serving police officer commented on a Facebook post saying, 'A lot of women sitting around and a lot of sandwiches not getting made.' Will the minister stand against these comments and immediately accelerate the establishment of an independent police integrity unit?

**Mr PURDIE:** I thank the honourable member for the question. I am aware of that incident as has been reported. I spoke to the commissioner about that today. We answered questions to the media about that as well. I understand that, quite rightly, that matter is under investigation by the Ethical Standards Command and, as per the protocols in Queensland, the CCC will have oversight of that. It does not meet the standards set by the commission or the Queensland Police Service and it certainly does not meet the standards we set as a government. It is unacceptable. I support the commissioner in that internal investigation. No doubt it will be done thoroughly. Where necessary—I am mindful there is a current investigation—people will be held to account, as they should be, if it is found they have breached any of those proper processes.

More broadly, we as a government, as we have shown in our first six months, are committed to giving our police all of the resources and powers they need to better protect vulnerable victims, particularly women and children at risk of domestic and family violence. We have taken no shortcuts when it comes to the work we have done in this overdue and rapid reform. This is in stark contrast to those opposite, who stood back for over 10 years as the police were alerting them to the fact that calls relating to domestic violence were going up 20 per cent a year—an increase of 200 per cent over the past 10 years. Those opposite ignored our police, who were begging for tougher laws and better processes in terms of protecting victims.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b) on relevance. The question was in relation to the establishment of the independent police integrity unit. I ask you to draw the minister back to answering that question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The question is on integrity. Minister, you have heard the question.

**Mr PURDIE:** I am happy to continue to talk about the question as it was asked. What we on this side of the House are not going to do is protect perpetrators and alleged perpetrators of domestic violence. We are going to call it out. We are going to make sure the police have the powers they need to hold those people to account.

Let's talk about those opposite and the example they have been setting, as we have seen today, yesterday and over the past few weeks. The question to all those opposite is: when did they know about a member of their ranks—a person who is still a member of their ranks—being a potential DV perpetrator? Who knew what when, and who covered for it?

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Just a moment ago you asked the minister to be relevant to the question. The question was clearly about accelerating the establishment of an independent police integrity unit. We would all like to hear an answer to the question.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, on the point of order, the question as asked had many facets to it. The minister is being responsive to a number of facets of the question. He is being responsive to the question as asked. I would submit to you that he is continuing to address many elements of the question as asked.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you have heard the question around integrity. You have 30 seconds remaining.

**Mr PURDIE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The question I have is: what did those opposite do about it? The commission of inquiry happened years ago. What did they do about it?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you do not ask questions; you answer questions. You have 18 seconds remaining.

**Mr PURDIE:** Rhetorically, if I could, I would want to know what those opposite did about it. The commission of inquiry happened in 2022. The recommendations were before them for years. We have been in government for only 200 days and we are doing everything we can to protect victims of domestic violence.

### Train Manufacturing Program

**Mr BAROUNIS:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister outline how the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering critical rail jobs and infrastructure in Maryborough, and is the minister aware of any scare campaigns?

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

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I thank the member for Maryborough for his question. He is a man who has been listening to and leading his community in the face of a scare campaign from those opposite. Those opposite have sought to weaponise workers' fear at Downer and in the community of Maryborough. The former member for Maryborough has weaponised worker fear for his own selfish political gain.

**Mr Smith** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bundaberg.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Those opposite—the member for Aspley, the member for Bundaberg and the opposition leader—have doubled down this week in parliament. Despite Downer writing to the Leader of the Opposition—

**Mr Mellish** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I am happy to table it. Downer wrote—

To limit unnecessary stress and anxiety among our workers and within the broader Maryborough community, we believe clear and accurate communication in our consultation process is essential in maintaining trust and stability, particularly in regional areas where employment is closely tied to community wellbeing.

I table that letter.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 16 May 2025, from the COO of Rail and Transit Systems, Downer Group, Mr Stephen Kakavas, to the Leader of the Opposition and member for Murrumbidgee, Hon. Steven Miles MP, regarding Hon. Miles's social media post on 15 May relating to Downer's Maryborough workforce.

Those opposite know that there is no basis in truth to their scare campaign. There is no change to any contract with the Queensland government, and those opposite know it.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** The period for question time has expired.

**Mr Smith** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bundaberg, you are warned.

## MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER (ADULT CRIME, ADULT TIME) AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 20 May (see p. 1306), on motion of Mrs Gerber—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (3.45 pm): I rise to contribute to the LNP's amendment bill—a bill that is now before the House for the fourth time since December last year for yet another round of fix-ups. Even though the opposition and many stakeholders warned the LNP to slow down and get this legislation right to avoid unintended consequences and to understand fully the ramifications of a rushed process, they refused. Subsequently, here we are once again attempting to fix this botched legislation. It is an absolute slap in the face to Queenslanders who were promised by this LNP government that youth crime would be fixed by Christmas, that ministers would be held to account and that this would be a transparent government. What Queenslanders have been dished up instead is an LNP that is not offering a coordinated policy agenda but policy and legislation drafted off the back of slick slogans designed to make headlines and not real change.

The opposition supports strong laws, but they must be evidence based, be properly considered and deliver real outcomes. As we consider yet another round of fix-ups for this legislation, the LNP refuses to release the advice of the Expert Legal Panel that it says it has relied on to create this legislation. In the public briefing, the director-general of the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support said in reference to the Expert Legal Panel—

They reported expressly to the minister. The minister made decisions. Of course, the department then would have been involved in providing support to the minister around the cabinet submissions and the whole drafting process. Clearly, it is a matter for the minister and it is a policy issue for government.

The LNP panel's advice was sent directly to the minister responsible and considered by cabinet, yet not a single page has been tabled in this place. Not a single organisation that appeared before the committee had even seen the advice. In fact, multiple stakeholders including QCOS, Queensland Law

Society, the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak and the Victims' Commissioner, to name but a few, have asked for the advice to be released. None have seen it.

The LNP must stop hiding the advice, try to muster some skerrick of integrity and let the sun shine in by tabling it in full. Does the secret advice include reference, for instance, to target 11 of the Closing the Gap agreement? Queensland has agreed to reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in detention by at least 30 per cent by 2031, a target that is very much reliant on the effective delivery of early intervention and prevention and an understanding of culturally safe resources and services—something in relation to which so far we have seen little to no attention from this LNP government. At the committee, the director-general could name only two small early intervention programs totalling a meagre \$200,000 of investment. In fact, it is pretty clear from committee hearings that the only early intervention programs the LNP is currently relying on are the programs of the former Labor government. Labor's youth co-responder teams, Labor's intensive bail initiative and Labor's Transition 2 Success were all started and funded by Labor.

Submissions by a number of key stakeholders have made clear the importance of prevention and early intervention programs. PeakCare stated—

Expanding the use of detention without corresponding investment in early intervention, prevention and the supporting infrastructure of the legal and court systems will continue to result in more children being held in adult watchhouses for extended periods. These environments are inappropriate for children and contrary to principles of rehabilitation and child safety.

Voice for Victims, and I acknowledge those who are in the gallery, stated—

Victims recognise penalties alone will not fix Queensland's youth crime crisis, and in addition to harsher sentences imposed on the worst offenders, we must engage actively in prevention, early intervention, diversion and rehabilitation both at the pre and post-custody stage, as well as during court processes along with a continuum of intensifying consequences, including detention.

Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation said—

If these reforms go ahead without substantial changes and parallel investment in community-led, culturally safe alternatives, we fear the worst.

The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak said that they are—

... concerned that the legislative focus on punishment diverts attention and resources away from early intervention and diversion. In the absence of adequate investment in the social, emotional, and cultural wellbeing of children and their families, harsher sentencing will continue to address the symptoms of offending rather than its underlying causes.

The Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod said—

... instead of including more offences on the list of Adult Crime Adult Time offences, that the Queensland government should prioritise investment in evidence-based programs and services run by the community sector, such as early intervention and early prevention programs, diversionary programs (including at the point of policing and court) and holistic support programs (including on release from custody)

The LNP government's promised Gold Standard Early Intervention is an absolute farce and, sadly, it will be vulnerable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who will suffer the most as a result. Where is the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships on this matter? Has she consulted relevant stakeholders to ensure this piecemeal approach by the LNP does not have unintended consequences, particularly as it relates to her ability to meet her own KPIs as outlined in her charter letter?


According to the publicly available charter letters, the member for Maroochydore, who is the minister responsible, is the sole minister responsible for the LNP's work towards the objectives of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, so I call on her to immediately seek the release of the expert panel's advice—to muster some strength, some conviction for her portfolio, and prove to this House and to the people of Queensland that this legislation will not have unintended consequences when it comes to Queensland's obligations against Closing the Gap targets. It is absolutely heartbreaking that the minister responsible for representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is not standing up for them when it comes to this legislation. The minister is not standing up for them when it comes to meeting the targets of Closing the Gap.

The shadow attorney-general will be moving sensible amendments to this bungled bill—amendments that are about transparency, accountability and putting victims and victim-survivors first. The Premier promised Queenslanders that he would resign if victim numbers do not fall, and Queenslanders deserve regular updates on the LNP's progress. Our amendment requires monthly tabling of victim data and offence data so that Queenslanders do not have to rely on inconsistent cherry-picked information through a partisan filter. Further to the notion of transparency, the opposition is seeking an 18-month statutory review of both the 2024 and 2025 laws independently led and publicly released.

The LNP claim to put victims first, yet they have sat on sentencing recommendations from the independent Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council since December. The Labor opposition also seeks sensible amendments to the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to: recognise harm to victim-survivors in sentencing; treat rape against children as an aggravating factor; restrict use of 'good character' evidence in sentencing; and prevent courts drawing inference from lack of a victim impact statement. These amendments reflect expert consensus, community expectations and our commitment to meaningful, victim focused reform.

I support the amendments that the shadow attorney-general will be moving later in this debate. They are sensible amendments based on this notion of transparency, accountability and putting victims and victim-survivors first. Transparency is an incredibly important tool and an important part of this legislation and parliament. Premier Crisafulli guaranteed Queenslanders that he would have a transparent government, yet we have not seen the advice from the Expert Legal Panel. We do not know what is in that advice. Will Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids be worse off as a result of this?

The minister responsible has not come forward. I understand that she may be speaking on this legislation. If so, I hope she addresses this issue. Can she guarantee that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people will not be adversely impacted by these changes to her legislation? Will she guarantee that Queensland will be able to meet the Closing the Gap targets with regards to incarceration rates in this state? Will this legislation have an impact on any of that? I call on the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships to address those issues. I hope she does that in her contribution to this bill later in the debate.

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (3.55 pm): I rise on behalf of the Mundingburra electorate to speak in support of the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025. Before I start, I would like to give my thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers. We are in the middle of National Volunteer Week so I acknowledge our wonderful SES volunteers. Today is Wear Orange Wednesday so I say a big thank you to them.

As members know, my home town is Townsville. I was born in Townsville, was raised in Townsville, went to primary school in Townsville and went to high school in Townsville. I have loved living in Townsville. My children have grown up in Townsville and went to school in Townsville. Sadly, Townsville is now known as 'Crimsville'. We live in the crime capital of Queensland—a title that we have had for 10 years as a result of Labor's weakening of the youth justice laws. Our community never asked for this. We never wanted this title and we are not deserving of this title. Our government is doing everything we can to ensure that we are no longer known by this title or wear this crown.

We are implementing the Making Queensland Safer plan, and the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025 is part of that plan. This bill expands section 175A of the Youth Justice Act 1992 to include an additional 20 serious offences that can attract adult penalties. Some of those 20 additional offences to be included are arson, torture, aggravated attempted robbery, rape and attempted murder.

This bill will ensure youth offenders who commit serious crimes—including sexual offences, violent offences and offences that cause fear in the community—can face serious consequences for their actions. We committed to appointing an expert legal panel to advise on the next tranche of laws, and we have delivered on that promise. These offences are based on those recommendations. I would like to personally thank the panel for their work, and we are now acting on their advice like we promised. The panel will continue their review of other offences—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Mundingburra referred to advice received from the Expert Legal Panel. I presume that advice she is citing is in documented form. Therefore, in accordance with standing order 30, I move—

That the document read or cited by the Member for Mundingburra be tabled.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): One moment, member for Maroochydore, I will come to you, but I would like to seek some advice from the Clerk first. I will take this advice in silence from all sides, please. Member for Maroochydore, I know you have a point of order and I am happy to hear it, however the motion is one that was put without notice or debate. That being the case, under the standing orders, the Manager of Opposition Business has moved a motion which needs to be put without debate.

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

**AYES, 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, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

**NOES, 53:**

**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.

**KAP, 2—**Dametto, Knuth.

Resolved in the negative.



**Mrs POOLE:** This is the second tranche of the Making Queensland Safer Laws. We are starting to see green shoots, with small decreases in key offending across the state since Adult Crime, Adult Time was first introduced. These green shoots have been seen firsthand in Townsville where we had a defence solicitor say that under Labor's weakened Youth Justice Act a juvenile received a sentence of six months for an unlawful use of a motor vehicle; under the Crisafulli LNP government's Adult Crime, Adult Time, he received 18 months.

There is still a long way to go, and that is what this bill is about. We know it will take time to reverse Labor's decade of youth crime chaos and crisis, but we remain committed to restoring safety in Mundingburra and all of Townsville.

With 28 years of service to the Townsville community as a proud member of the Queensland Police Service, I have seen firsthand the frustrations of our police officers on the frontline who have to deal with a repeat juvenile offender crisis created through Labor's weakening of the youth crime laws a decade ago. Our police know that they now have a government that has their back, giving them the laws, the resources and the boots on the ground that they have desperately been crying out for.

Queenslanders deserve to feel safe in their homes, their workplaces and out in their communities, but they do not. On 26 October, Queenslanders asked for tougher laws and they gave the Crisafulli LNP government a clear mandate to deliver tough laws that deal with the hardcore recidivist offenders—the untouchables. Those opposite created this generation of untouchables. Those opposite will now watch us clean up the youth crime mess created by the former, shambolic Labor government. We are making the necessary changes after Labor created a generation of serious repeat offenders.

Labor has always put the rights of offenders before the rights of victims. To those opposite, I say that with or without you we are going to be passing these laws and there will be more changes to come in the future. You need to decide once and for all whether you are on the side of the victims or on the side of the criminal thugs—the untouchables that you created.

To my community in Mundingburra, I know that you still do not feel safe because of Labor's creation of a generation of youth criminals. I know you are frustrated and you feel let down. Crime rates in Mundingburra and across Townsville are still too high, but please know I hear you and this government hears you. We will pass this legislation, but our work is not done. There will be more changes and we will not stop until we can make our community a safer place. We will continue to put the rights of victims before offenders and we will restore safety where you live. I commend this bill to House.



**Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (4.10 pm): It has not taken very long for things to start to fray when it comes to the competency of the Crisafulli government. They made many promises to Queenslanders last October, including on youth crime, and it should be acknowledged that they won the support of the majority of Queenslanders last October. But then, the slithery backsliding started almost immediately last November. They promised they would solve the youth crime crisis with their new laws that they apparently had ready to go before the state election. They promised no health cuts, they promised transparency and openness—remember that? I will come back to that. They promised 2,200 hospital beds by 2028 and they promised no new stadium. What happened as soon as they finally got access to the tower of power they built for themselves under premier Newman? Their youth crime bill was rushed into the parliament before Christmas without proper preparation, consultation and consideration, necessitating this bill. Construction on hospitals were halted almost immediately last November at the same time. They announced new stadiums, despite promising not to. They have also subsequently dumped their commitment to Queenslanders for 2,200 beds by 2028—another election promise being dumped. They are mounting up. They started cutting health programs, services—

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This is pretty predictable. This has absolutely nothing to do with the bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): That point of order has some salience. Please return to the bill before the House.

**Mr BAILEY:** Certainly. What we saw is the government delivering pork pies—not election promises. That is what we have seen. Queenslanders are starting to look at the Crisafulli government with frowns and they are starting to wonder how so many election promises have been dumped already. They are starting to wonder what happened to a government that knew how to govern. This bill is here only because this government botched their laws before Christmas. It is as simple and as straightforward as that. Incredibly, rape and attempted murder were left out and this week they returned to the House to include them—only after it was raised by the opposition and by stakeholders. I would have loved to be a fly on the wall when the excuses and the finger-pointing in and around cabinet started on who was responsible for that. The duckshoving would have been at a new level but ultimately, responsibility falls to the Premier and his staff for such a colossal mistake on a signature policy for this government.

A sharp premier would have picked it up. A sharp minister would have picked it up. A senior staffer should have identified it. To be clear: an on-point line minister, or attorney-general for that matter, would have burnt the midnight oil, been thorough and ensured that it was sorted out. Yet they had barely drawn up the plans for renovations in their ministerial offices in 1 William Street when, in a frenzied post-election rush to actions—including an anti-government backbench censure motion and Deputy Premier Bleijie humiliating the member for Mermaid Beach during the speaker debate—they slapped together their youth crime laws. I will not use the analogy but they slapped it together and it was made to go. They were in a hurry, that was the tone, but it was at the expense of a whole lot of good governance, thoroughness and process. That is why we are back here debating this.

For a whole week—this bill. There is no other legislation is before the House this week because they botched their first bill and they are having another stab at it. Is youth crime under control after seven months of the Crisafulli government? Does any Queenslander think so? The Attorney-General is like a builder returning to the new house built last December, plugging the holes and the leaks in the roofs and the walls as the rain gets in—but wait, there is more. Premier Crisafulli says we might come back a third time. This Premier and his weak and ineffectual ministers in this House have already prefaced they may plug even more gaps that they did not deal with because they did not consult, they did not collaborate, they did not look at evidence-based policy and they rushed things all too quickly on an important matter.

One of the key aspects of this bill, of course, is the expert panel and its report. We remember Premier Crisafulli when he was opposition leader promising openness and transparency. We all remember that echo of 'let the sunshine in', yet already the tone from the Premier and his ministers has changed since the election. As soon as they got to their level 40 in the skyscraper they built under Campbell Newman—the member for Broadwater, the Premier was there making that decision—they appointed an expert panel with no merit-based process at all. None. The expert panel produced a report which was a major part of the process leading to this bill, yet every member of this parliament is not allowed to read it—not allowed. We have been blocked, we have been prevented, we have been banned from seeing and reading this secret report. We just had a vote. If the government has so much faith in the report, why would they not allow the public and the opposition and media to see it?

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** I note the puerile interjections from those opposite who are covering up this report and voted only 10 minutes ago to block it being considered by the people's Chamber. This parliament is being prevented from considering the expert panel report. Why? Because Premier Crisafulli is preventing anyone from seeing the expert panel report, whether they are members of parliament, the media or the Queensland public. It is Premier Crisafulli who is keeping the expert panel report secret. This parliament and this state is being kept in the dark because of the Premier's decision to keep it secret. That is not open, that is not transparent. Is this a cave, or is it a parliament? More importantly, Premier Crisafulli and Deputy Premier Bleijie are hiding the report. It is totally unacceptable, and it is a betrayal of the trust and faith that Queenslanders placed in them on 26 October. It has only taken seven months to get there. Seven months to return to the Newman tactics; seven months to return to the dark old days of 'here we Joh' again. Seven months of secrecy in hiding a key report from Queenslanders. Seven months of cuts and broken election promises.

Few signs of their alleged Gold Standard Early Intervention are there. We are now seven months into the government. They made much of their so-called gold standard intervention and what do we hear? Very, very little. The fact is the Premier and the Crisafulli government should release the expert panel report today so this parliament can properly consider the input of the expert panel into these laws and their assessments. What have they got to hide? Why are they lacking confidence in sharing this report with the public and with this parliament? If the Crisafulli government is so confident, why are they hiding it? What is in the report that they are afraid of Queenslanders seeing? What did the expert panel include and not include, and why?


We will never know. We will never know if the Premier continues to achieve what he wants to achieve if he keeps it secret. We will not know if he keeps it under this cloak of secrecy in this darkening of the state. The parliament, the people's place, has been prevented from doing its job in relation to this report. We know when Premier Crisafulli says something it means nothing, and this is another example. He was pro openness and transparency before the election and now he is about secrecy, hiding reports and keeping things in the dark. Members of parliament have a right to demand openness, transparency and accountability because they are all aware of our responsibilities. However, what we have seen is these kinds of tactics from this government. We have seen the regular refusal to answer questions in question time. We have seen ministers avoiding answers regularly. They will be judged on whether they can actually deal with youth crime, whether they can keep their election promises and on their cuts to the health and hospital system.

**Mr Crandon:** How many billions of dollars was that?

**Mr BAILEY:** It has not been a good start when this week has been a patch-up job to plug the holes from their December bill that was botched by Premier Crisafulli and the Attorney-General.

**Mr Crandon:** What was that about? Billions of dollars you hid from them?

**Mr BAILEY:** We hear the bleating of those opposite, some of whom have achieved absolutely nothing in their whole careers and who are now in government and still not achieving; they are covering up this report. Shame on them for deluding and misleading Queenslanders before the election that they believed in openness and accountability and as soon as they are in the tower of power they cover up things like this expert report. The Premier should release it, because it is the Premier who is hiding it. If the Premier had any integrity, he would release that report today.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (4.21 pm): I rise to make my contribution on the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025. We have heard a lot from the opposition, the Labor Party, saying, 'You have to come back and fix up the bill.' That is clearly not true. It was always the case that we would continue to improve the law in this area to make sure that it is fit for purpose to protect the people of Queensland. There is no higher order of business than ensuring that the electorate we represent is safe. If honourable members go and speak to the people on the street—and I listen to them all the time and have conversations with them; they know that under Labor crime rose exponentially—they will see that they know what happened. We had meetings in Toowoomba where the premier of the day, Annastacia Palaszczuk, would not even come and face the crowd.

I do not need an expert panel to tell me that if someone is going armed to cause fear, they should be treated as an adult. At the point people see them in their lounge room with a machete, I think they are past being treated as a child by the justice system of this state. If they are threatening violence so that they can take people's property, if they have attempted murder or are an accessory to murder, if they have assaulted a pregnant person and killed or have done grievous bodily harm or transmitted a serious disease to an unborn child—who in their right mind would think these are the acts of an innocent juvenile? This is someone who deserves to receive the full punishment of the law.

Torture, damaging an emergency vehicle when operating a motor vehicle—I want to be clear on this one. Our Police Service are battered and bruised by the management of the Labor government that allowed this crime crisis to spiral out of control. I will be attending the 40 for Fortey, which is held in recognition of an officer who lost his life whilst trying to protect those in my community. If someone has stolen a car, often by breaking into a house, often by carrying a weapon, often by threatening violence, and they damage an emergency vehicle while operating that motor vehicle, surely nobody would suggest they should be treated as a child. Endangering a police officer when driving a motor vehicle—we have had police officers who have faced severe injury because of the crime crisis caused by the Labor government and we owe them the protection of this House and part of that is a consequence for actions. If someone is endangering a police officer while driving that vehicle—that is,



bumping up the kerb, swerving towards them, trying to intimidate them and stopping them from protecting the community of Queensland—they have forfeited the right to be judged as a child.

If someone has raped a person, attempted to commit rape, assaulted with intent to commit rape, sexually assaulted in circumstances involving any part of the mouth while armed in company or involving penetration, is anybody thinking these are crimes that should be treated as child crimes? Kidnapping, kidnapping for ransom, deprivation of liberty, stealing a vehicle or a firearm for use in another indictable offence, attempted armed robbery, arson, endangering particular property by fire, trafficking in dangerous drugs—is there anybody who thinks that the person who has committed any of these offences deserves the protection of this House and to be treated as a child? I do not and I do not need an expert panel to tell me that those crimes should, at the discretion of the judge, be able to be punished with an adult sentence. The judge or the magistrate can still look at the circumstances, can still understand exactly what has happened and can make a judgement as to what is appropriate. What the community feels is appropriate is that when the judge thinks they were acting as an adult, they should be able to be punished as one.

I think of the relatives and friends of poor Robert Brown, a 75-year-old man who was standing in broad daylight in the middle of Toowoomba outside the biggest regional shopping centre in Queensland. After going to the shops to buy his girlfriend a Valentine's card he was assaulted and killed in our main street. Does anybody think that is a serious crime and the juveniles involved in that incident should face penalties as an adult? I for one do.

We have had other incidents involving machetes and tomahawks and people intimidating people. We have had people threatening small children who were terrified of being kidnapped and all of this has gone on under the watch of this Labor mob opposite who now come in here and start saying, 'Where's the evidence?' Every time I go out on my street corner the evidence is there. It is there when I talk to my community and listen to what they are saying. They want the judgement of adult penalties for people who commit these most serious and adult crimes.


Just to be clear: those opposite say, 'You come in here and you have had to adapt this and do that.' The member for Miller was going on about patching up. We are not patching up. This law will be consistently adapted to be fit for purpose to ensure the people of Queensland are safe. Until such time as they are, we will come back in here and we will bring new and improved changes to make the people of Queensland safe. I will quote the former dean of Harvard Law School Roscoe Pound. He stated—

Justice cannot afford the paralysis of perfectionism; it must be forged in the fire of practical reform.

Let me tell honourable members that the people of Queensland want some practical reform rather than people with machetes standing in their lounge room. If the opposition think it is okay and we should let them out on bail after they have broken into someone's house with a machete in their hand, let them vote for it. Let them stand up in the community and say, 'I think it's okay. If someone is in your lounge room with a machete, give them the car keys, let them go. Sorry your children are wetting the bed for the next five years because they are absolutely terrified to go to sleep.' All of that has been caused by the policies of the previous Labor government. They must take responsibility for it. However, they come in here and criticise us for bringing forward these amendments—and there will be more amendments. Until the people of Queensland feel safe in their house there will be more, so let's not pretend we said this would be fixed by Christmas. We said we would begin the process of unwinding 10 years of chaos and crisis that was caused by the Labor government. That is what we said we would start unwinding by Christmas and we have and we will continue to do so.

I look forward to hearing from the Leader of the Opposition. I want to see him stand up and take responsibility for the thousands of crime victims as a result of the people who were allowed out under their watch because the laws were weakened by them. I heard a couple of people bleating on about watch houses being an inappropriate place. Nearly seven years ago I tried to expose the disgrace that was the Labor government locking up children in Townsville and transferring them to Roma Street Station in Brisbane and giving them Kentucky Fried Chicken, no education and isolating them from their families. I tried to expose that. They were so embarrassed they would not even let me go and have a look, but eventually they were exposed for it. Now the hypocrites in the Labor Party come in here and start saying that it is something to do with us. They have left this mess. We will fix this mess not only by making sure we have strong laws where people who commit the most serious of crimes will be treated as adults but also by making sure that we have great early intervention, making sure we have post sentencing programs, making sure we have appropriate facilities to look after the people who have been incarcerated while we are protecting the rest of the state from the harm they would do and the victims they would cause. Those are the things that we will bring back in here. Members of the Labor

Party should be ashamed of standing up and trying to confuse people about what is going on here. These laws will be strong under the LNP and we will reduce crime under the LNP.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (4.30 pm): One victim of crime is one too many, because every person deserves to be safe and to feel safe—at home, in the workplace, in their community. There is no question that crime is unacceptably high. This year alone there have been a number of horrific major crimes including car thefts, rape and attempted murder—and those are just the ones we hear about on the news. Reducing crime is not just about reducing the reports of crime; it is about improving actual and perceived safety in the community. It is about addressing the root causes of crime, and there are plenty. I have said many times that by and large Queensland kids are good kids, but there is a small group of serious repeat offenders committing crimes across the state, and that has to stop to reduce the number of victims of crime.

Queenslanders voted for a promise to reduce victims, for a promise that crime would be fixed by Christmas. I stood next to the Premier at the Channel 9 debate as he proclaimed in October that he had written the laws already. Instead of releasing those supposed draft laws then, the LNP waited until it came to power—and then it waited some more. The first glimpse that we or any Queenslander got of its signature policy was in late November. There was no early consultation with stakeholders; there was no draft circulated for MPs. For almost all of 2024 the only thing we had to go off on the Adult Crime, Adult Time policy was a media release—no explanation of how the offences were chosen, no substance behind the slogan.

Instead of providing stakeholders time to analyse the laws, the committee had just days to review them. The committee was warned that, without sufficient time to properly consider the laws and their impact, there would be unintended consequences, like horrific offences being left off the list or mistakes being made. Now we are here for the fourth time since December debating changes to the Youth Justice Act. If that is not an admission that this government has bungled the laws, I do not know what is. There is also not a single shred of credible evidence to prove that these laws are making a meaningful change. I mean—

... you can't cherry pick little bits of figures. It's victim numbers that matter. It's the number of victims ...

Those are not my words; they are the words of the Premier just a few months ago, and there is not a single minister in this chamber who can stand up right now and tell us how many Queenslanders have been a victim of crime and if that is fewer than the 289,657 that the Premier staked his leadership on. It is this pathetic, piecemeal, sneaky approach to government that has the Premier tied up in knots—knots about what he promised to deliver on community safety and the reality on Queensland streets. We are not any closer to reducing the number of victims now than we were six months ago, and that is a damning indictment of where this next tranche of laws is heading.

After the first tranche of laws was completely botched, we have seen the Crisafulli LNP government bring in an expert panel. We are told they are the best of the best to give the government the expert advice it needs to get the next batch of laws right. However, when we look at the fine print, we would realise that this expert panel comes with more disclaimers than the LNP's real-time health data website, and that is already giving a midday infomercial a run for its money.

The *Courier-Mail* reported that several key legal stakeholders had been approached to be on the panel but they all declined. An EOI was put out. Questions about how many applicants and the process have so far gone unanswered. Since its appointment, the panel has allegedly been working away tirelessly. The youth justice minister gave an update in this House, saying the panel—

... have engaged in consultations across Queensland with stakeholders and sector service providers, including workers in our youth detention centres, legal professionals and victim support groups. They have reviewed and analysed crime data, case law, harm indexes and the impact of these offences on victims and the broader community.

This work is what has informed the advice provided to government—supposedly the substance of this bill—yet that advice has not been realised, has not been provided to the committee, has not been provided to the opposition, the crossbench, stakeholders or the media. The expert panel was not even allowed to appear before the committee to answer questions. What we have seen is secrecy shrouding what should be an independent body providing frank and fearless advice to the government, and it is not good enough. Valid questions remain about how this group was decided. The Premier is always sidestepping questions, so what I want to know is: are you going to run it straight, David? It is simple: release the advice today. Queenslanders deserve to know; they have a right to know. It is not good enough.

One offence included in the bill is attempted murder. It follows the highly publicised incident of an attempted murder in Yamanto. It is reported that the alleged offender was a young person out on

bail. The damage that incident caused is irreparable to the victim, their family, friends and to people who go about their day buying their groceries at Coles. It is a community that will never be the same. While community sentiment was outraged that the alleged offender would not be receiving a tougher sentence under this LNP government, it appears the Crisafulli caucus was getting busy trying to brush it under the rug. In a bombshell text released last night, the member for Cook was noted texting the Premier's office, saying—

No children convicted of attempted murder in the last decade.

Most concerning, the member said of the crime in Yamanto—

They are making a big deal over a non-event.

Shame. I do not think a single person impacted by that crime—or any crime—thinks that it is a non-event. It should be a big deal. When the Premier was asked about it at a press conference, his media adviser gloated that he had gotten off lighter than expected. Well, Premier, so will the alleged offender because the laws were botched the first time around.

It is no secret that these laws will pass under the LNP's massive majority, but my team cannot and will not just sit by without trying to improve them. Instead of fobbing off the experts, we listen to them. It is why the shadow attorney-general has sought to move a motion to implement recommendations of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council. Our amendments seek to recognise the harm done to victim-survivors and have that appropriately reflected in sentence, to treat rape against children as an aggravating factor leading to tougher sentences, prevent courts from drawing inference from a lack of a victim impact statement, and restricting the use of good character evidence in sentencing.

I was buoyed by the Attorney-General's support for those changes. Now is the time to have the courage to support those amendments and do what is right. We will also call for victim data to be tabled regularly. This was something the Premier staked his leadership on, yet he has failed at the first hurdle. He has refused to answer questions on what his own KPIs will be, how that data will be collated and when it will be released. It is now May and there has been nothing. As the Premier said, it is victim numbers that matter so it should be easy for the LNP government to vote for our amendments that would support the publication of this data.

The Crisafulli LNP government has an overwhelming majority in this House and Labor will not stand in the way of the LNP fixing the mistakes they made rushing the bill through the first time, but I have outlined some very real concerns with this bill, such as how it was developed and the advice that helped shape it and why the LNP would rather play politics with crime to drive fear and division. It is only right that the Premier answer those questions, especially after his office gloated about how lightly he has been let off by the media. This LNP government should support sensible, evidence-based amendments put forward by Labor. I urge the government to do what is right and stand up for victims. If they do not, we will be back on the merry-go-round with a government more intent on wedging than delivering a better, safer Queensland for all.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 244. I draw your attention to the contribution of the Leader of the Opposition where there was an incorrect use of titles.

**Mr MILES:** I apologise and withdraw.



**Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (4.41 pm): On behalf of the electorate of Southern Downs, I rise to make a contribution on the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr LISTER:** I take the acknowledgements from my colleagues. Somebody echoed the great Lawrence Springborg in saying, 'It's the Southern Downs way!', and that means so much to me. This is a very important response to the scourge of the outrageous youth crime that we have seen rampant in our state over the last years. It has grown throughout the 10 years that Labor were in power, particularly for communities in my electorate of Southern Downs. I also have to acknowledge my humble friend, the member for Thuringowa, who I sit next to, and the other honourable member who I sit next to in this place, the member for Capalaba, who represent communities and, indeed, have had experiences themselves as victims, in the most appalling way, of the youth crime crisis. I am very proud to join the team of such people to support this bill.

I have heard a torrent of invective and handwringing come from the Labor Party in the course of this debate. They are totally fixated upon minor details when all one has to do is look out the window to

see the way Queensland has become. In places like Goondiwindi, in my electorate, people are scared. People have been home invaded, sometimes on multiple occasions. Everyone has loved ones or acquaintances who have been home invaded or assaulted or had their vehicle stolen, sometimes on many occasions. People who go to Goondiwindi, do a day's work and stay in the motel have their door kicked down by a youth offender who has already stolen a car and is using it to get around. Because of the lawlessness that prevailed under the decade of Labor being soft on youth crime, these offenders are becoming increasingly violent. They are increasingly employing pre-emptive violence to subdue good, honest, innocent people in their motel rooms or in their homes in order to get their car keys.

Small businesses have been monstrously disadvantaged by having ramraids perpetrated against their premises. I have spoken on many occasions in the course of these kinds of debates about the Five Star supermarket in Goondiwindi where, at last count, there have been four ramraids. On each occasion the cost of fixing the damage is \$20,000, \$30,000 or \$40,000. It is done with a stolen car by youth offenders who steal cigarettes and lollies. This is the true story of the youth crime crisis that we see in Queensland. As I say, all one has to do to see it writ large is to look out the window.

Labor is fatally out of touch on this matter. They say that we should listen to the experts. I say in response to that, 'Are these the same experts that coddled up to Labor and encouraged them to water down the youth justice laws in the first place? Are these the same experts who say that the place for a child is with their parents irrespective of whether those parents are fit and proper people to have those children or not?' I hear bitter complaints from foster carers about children who have thrived once they have been in a loving foster home, only to be taken away and given back to mum or dad because they are feeling much better now and they spiral from that point into oblivion; kids who do not go to school or who live in violent, abusive or drug-addled environments who are left there because of wokeness and political correctness rather than the best interests of the child. Over the years we have seen experts in the Labor Party progressively water down laws and become more and more woke in the way that they have dealt with these matters.

We now reap what Labor has sown. We now have a generation of youth offenders who have no respect for the law, no respect for themselves and no respect for anyone else. I ask the members of the Labor Party, when they say locking kids up is not the answer, 'Are you prepared to face Mrs Norman in Goondiwindi who has been home invaded three times? Are you prepared to say that that youth offender needed to be at large on the street so that they could reoffend the very night that they were let off by the magistrate and break into her home, steal her car and terrorise her?' I heard the member for Toohey say that this is not a binary thing. I argue that it is. You either put the safety and interests of good, law-abiding people in the community above the rights of offenders to be at large or you do not. This bill is a proclamation of the LNP's commitment to putting the rights of good, law-abiding people ahead of offenders.

I am sure everyone in this chamber agrees that locking children up is less than desirable, but it is a hell of a lot more desirable than leaving them at large to commit the same crimes night after night after night. At the core of the Labor argument is that locking kids up is not the answer, that they are victims, that they are vulnerable. It is an abandonment of the good people of Queensland in favour of those who intend them ill. We have had 10 years of backsliding and now there is no choice left but to imprison these characters in order to protect the community. We need to embark on proper, decisive early intervention and that is what this government has done. That will take time to bear fruit. If there is anybody in this chamber who says that in the meantime we should let all the offenders off because it is not good for them to be locked up so they can continue to terrorise the community, let them say so. I think I am more likely to get an interjection from the Clerk. This is serious business and all we have heard is handwringing from the Labor Party and talking about how these characters are victims.

The definition of a victim or a vulnerable person in my community is somebody who works hard in small business or their job to acquire their possessions, to accumulate some financial security, to own a home, to look after their families, to put food on the table and to see their kids grow up. That is a vulnerable person these days, not the characters that I hear a phalanx of Labor Party members speak of as being vulnerable. Sure, they may be disadvantaged: they have not gone to school, they are traumatised, they have had exposure to domestic violence or drugs or they are from First Nations families. Nobody can tell me, though, that those are reasons to let them loose on the streets night after night after night, and that is what is at the core of this bill.

I heard the member for Algester echo what many Labor members had said, which is that this treats the symptom of crime not the cause—that is, locking up offenders does not treat the causes. I thought of a heart attack analogy. If somebody is experiencing a heart attack, you deal with the symptoms; you deal with the heart attack. You do not counsel them while they are dying to reduce their

cholesterol intake. That is what the Labor Party is proposing. It is madness. In fact, the Labor Party, the experts and the lefties who egg them on in the ruination of youth justice and child protection in Queensland over the past decade, should hang their heads in shame. They have sinned themselves out of any right to point the finger at us.

**Mr McDonald:** Hear, hear!

**Mr LISTER:** I take that acknowledgement from my honourable friend the member for Lockyer. As a former police officer, a former civic leader and a member of parliament who represents an area that knows its fair share of crime, he is qualified to do so. All you have to do is look out the window. We all know it.

**Mr Vorster:** On this side we do.

**Mr LISTER:** I take the interjection from the member for Burleigh. On this side we know it and we do something about it. Calls for us to be bipartisan or to listen to the very experts who got us into this mess in the first place are too late. There was a decade of activism by the Labor government, watering down laws, putting political considerations ahead of the safety of children and telling the community of Queensland that youth justice is a complex issue and that locking up kids is not the answer.

If this bill—and I am sure it will—assists in locking up offenders so that they cannot continue their rampage of assaults, home invasions, vehicle thefts and ram raids night after night then I say it is a good thing. I unashamedly align myself with the Liberal National Party in putting the safety of good law-abiding people, people who live by and uphold the law, ahead of the offenders, no matter how sad their circumstances. If any member in this House disagrees and says that offenders should be at large to continue to commit their offences because it is not good for them to be locked up then let them say so.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Member for Southern Downs, there was some unparliamentary language in your contribution.

**Mr LISTER:** Forgive me, sir. I withdraw.



**Mr DAMELTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (4.51 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025. When you look at the previous Youth Justice Act, you can understand why it was written in such a way. Ten or 15 years ago, we were worried about kids going into service stations, stealing maybe a packet of chips or an ice-cream and running off. Under that legislation we saw an increase in violence, the frequency of offending and the type of offending that happens. Unfortunately, under Labor the Youth Justice Act failed to keep up with the offending cohort across Queensland and, in particular, where the crisis started, that is, Townsville, Mount Isa and Cairns where we have been living in hell for at least eight years. When I first ran for parliament in 2017, this issue was front and centre of the election campaign. Under two terms of Labor, Queenslanders lived under a regime that allowed youth offenders to continue to spiral out of control.

The KAP put a number of policies forward. The first one was to remove detention as a last resort. We introduced that into this House and both sides of the House failed to vote for it. It was later picked up as a policy by the LNP opposition at the time and then introduced as an amendment by the Labor Party, which was subsequently tidied up by the LNP when they took government at the end of last year.

From the very start, the KAP has been talking with victims of crime in the place where it started, North Queensland, where motor vehicle thefts and home invasions spiralled out of control. We talked to the victims and they said that we needed to do something different with youth. Locking them up is one way. We want to see those kids off the streets, but you cannot keep putting the same youth offenders back into places like Cleveland Youth Detention Centre and expect something different to happen. That is why we put relocation sentencing on the table. That is about sending those kids out bush and giving them an opportunity to reform while having a deterrent to detention in the first place. It is good to see that the LNP picked up that policy as well. We have been talking to the youth justice minister and the department about their Circuit Breaker Sentencing, which hopefully will be a third option for magistrates when it comes to sentencing kids. We also hope to see the promised 60 beds delivered after the state budget is handed down.

I will fast forward a little. On 3 November 2022, the KAP floated a policy about giving young offenders who commit adult crimes adult time. We issued a media release outlining the prescriptive crimes. I have heard members talk about the expert panel that was assembled. The only mistake that the LNP made after introducing the first tranche of the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws was employing that expert panel. We know where they got the answers from in the first place. The list of offences, as named by the KAP from the very start, were those offences that called for a 14-year or maximum life

sentence, that is, those we consider to be adult crimes here in Queensland. Say a child is committing rape. In many cultures, sexual activity indicates that a person has matured to adulthood. However, if a 15- or 16-year-old is raping people then they deserve to be tried as an adult. Rape is one of the most heinous crimes and it beggars belief that it was left off the first tranche of changes. I am glad that we are now in this House making those changes through the introduction of 13 new offences into the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws.

North Queenslanders have been dealing with this for too long. They will be happy to hear that youth offenders will be behind bars longer, but that will take time because the courts will need to set new sentencing precedents under the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. There will be magistrates and judges who will act bravely on this and I commend them. They are the people who will set the state back on the course that it needs to be. However, for youth offenders things will get a lot worse before they get any better for victims across Queensland. The precedents have to be set and it will take very brave judges and magistrates to do that, bearing in mind that the Court of Appeal will always be there to oversee this. We have to ensure that rulings are not overturned in the Court of Appeal and that the legislation is enacted in the way it is supposed to be.

There is one way to get around that. For prescribed crimes, the KAP will continue to call for minimum mandatory sentencing. That is how you ensure that kids are taken off the streets and locked up for a period, allowing victims to have some reprieve and allowing people to have time with those kids, maybe through a Circuit Breaker Sentencing location, to teach them something and break the cycle of crime. You cannot keep relying on sentencing to determine how long a child will be taken out of the system. Too many things can be brought into the courtroom by those defending these vile little criminals, allowing them to get off with lighter sentencing. Minimum mandatory sentencing is what we need to continue to push for.

While talking on this Adult Crime, Adult Time legislation, I must say that we are very proud that these policies, which came from talking to people from across regional Queensland, have been adopted by the LNP government. We are proud to see that. As a small minor party in Queensland, we had the audacity to float these policies first, to test public opinion and to make sure that the public is onside. We do not want to hear from expert panels. Those experts are the people who have driven us down this road for the past 10 years. We have ended up at a point where you are not allowed to chastise your children anymore. You are not allowed to do anything in a classroom that offends those poor little sods to the point where they feel they can do whatever they like. They do not respect their parents, they do not respect the police, they do not respect their teachers and they do not care about going to detention centres. Those kids have become untouchable and it will take a fair bit to correct the rudder.

Queenslanders have had enough with the break and enters and the vile home invasions in which women have had knives held to their throats as they tried to defend their children and their property from young offenders. That is why Queenslanders are calling for castle law. They want the right to defend themselves, through whatever means is necessary, if their home is invaded and they have to protect their property, their loved ones or themselves. When making a split-second decision, you should not have to figure out whether or not that person's knife has a similar force to your cricket bat. If people are in your house, I do not care if they are youth offenders or adults: you should have the right to defend yourself in your house.

Last year, we raised a parliamentary petition within five short weeks—we were able to get 40,000 Queenslanders interested in Castle Law. All I can say to the incoming LNP government is thank you for listening to Queenslanders on Adult Crime, Adult Time; thank you for listening to Queenslanders in regard to removing detention as a last resort; and thank you for listening to Queenslanders in regard to Circuit Breaker Sentencing, bush sentencing or relocation sentencing—name it whatever you like. Now it is time to listen to Queenslanders on Castle Law. Queenslanders have called for Castle Law. Now we have an LNP government that seems to be listening to Queenslanders and is intent on rolling back the sins of the past to restore law and order in this state, let's give Queenslanders the right to defend themselves in their own home. All they are asking for is to be given the opportunity. The government has listened to Queenslanders up to this point. This is the next step.

I was very excited to hear the member for Toowoomba North say that they will be coming back into this House with a raft of changes. We called for Castle Law to be introduced in this round, but it has not been introduced by the government. We will continue to push for Castle Law. We will continue to gauge public support. Once we have the public's support, and if this government has not implemented Castle Law as its own policy, we will continue to push it as our policy. We will take the time to introduce Castle Law back into this House as a private member's bill.

I do commend the bill to the House. I do commend the work that has been done so far. We are on the right path but we are not there yet. As I said, it will have to get a lot worse for these youth offenders before it gets any better for victims, and we in the KAP are committed to making sure that happens.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Member for Hinchinbrook, I think you used some unparliamentary language in your contribution. I just ask you to withdraw.

**Mr DAMETTO**: I withdraw.



**Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (5.01 pm): I rise to speak in strong support of the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025, a critical second tranche of reforms that honours the commitment we made to Queenslanders to take back control of our streets and restore community safety. At its heart, this bill is about righting a wrong, and that wrong is the legacy of inaction, delay and misplaced priorities under the former Labor government.

For over a decade, Labor systematically weakened the Youth Justice Act—making detention a last resort, abolishing breach of bail and elevating the rights of offenders over the rights of victims. The result was absolutely predictable and devastating. From Burleigh to Palm Beach, from Burleigh Waters to Varsity Lakes, I hear it every day: enough is enough. These are not just the voices of frustration; they are the voices of residents whose cars have been stolen, whose homes have been violated and whose peace of mind has been absolutely shattered. These are not isolated incidents. They reflect a system that has allowed youth offenders to act with impunity, emboldened by soft laws and even softer consequences. Under Labor, youth crime became a crisis and my community paid the price. That is why the LNP made community safety a cornerstone of our election platform. That is why we are delivering on our Making Queensland Safer plan. That is why we are legislating clearly, decisively and without apology.

The Adult Crime, Adult Time framework is more than just a phrase; it is a commitment. It is a commitment to the victims of crime, a commitment to our police and a commitment to Queenslanders, who deserve to feel safe again in their homes, in their cars and on their streets. This bill expands the original list of offences to include additional serious crimes—among them rape, torture, arson, attempted murder, kidnapping and the endangerment of emergency services personnel. These are not petty offences. They are grave, violent and, in some cases, life-altering or life-taking. Until now, the penalties for youth offenders committing these crimes have not matched the severity of their actions. That changes today. This bill is not just tough; it is smart. It has been informed by the work of the Expert Legal Panel, which brought together voices across the sector. Their work was clear: these offences are serious and they demand serious consequences.


This bill also makes meaningful improvements for victims, allowing them to nominate a third party to receive updates about a youth offender's custody status. Some argue it is a small administrative change, but I tell the House this will give victims more control over how and when they receive potentially triggering information. It is about dignity. It is about humanity. It is about putting victims first, as only the LNP can.

We also recognise the critical role of our frontline responders. Under this bill, we are adding new offences specifically to protect police and emergency workers from being targeted with vehicles—an increasing and deeply disturbing trend. There will be no more half measures. This government stands squarely with those who protect and serve our community.

Under Labor, we saw cost blowouts in youth detention infrastructure, endless delays in the courts and reactive lawmaking that followed only after tragedy. That is not how we govern. We act before crisis becomes calamity. We plan, we consult and then we deliver. Some critics have raised concerns about human rights, but let's be clear: the most fundamental human right is the right to safety, the right to walk on the streets of Palm Beach without fear, the right to send your children to school in Burleigh Waters without looking over your shoulder, the right to enjoy quality family time in Frascott Park without being stalked by intimidating groups and the right to a safe night out with your mates in Burleigh Heads. These rights have been ignored for far too long, and this bill restores them, just as we promised.

This legislation sends a simple but very powerful message: if you commit an adult crime, you will serve adult time. There will be consequences, not excuses, not handwringing—consequences. This message is not just to the offenders. This is a message for every victim who felt ignored by the former Labor government. It is for every single police officer who has faced the same repeat offender for the third or fourth time. It is for every Queenslanders who has wondered whether the system still works for them.

This is what justice looks like. This is what safety will look like. This is what leadership looks like. I am proud to be part of the LNP Crisafulli government, that will restore safety where we live. We will stand in strong opposition and in contrast to those opposite, who in this chamber have been gaslighting the victims of crime in Queensland, adding insult to injury, as if their laws were not the cause of the problem. How insulting. How insulting to victims. It is rubbing salt in their wounds. We stand in contrast to that approach because we stand with victims—victims whom we will look after and whose numbers we will reduce because our laws will have consequences, just as we promised.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (5.09 pm): I rise to give my contribution on the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill. I congratulate the government on adding 20 serious offences to the initial offence introduced in November last year. While it is paramount that these serious offences should have been introduced in November, I am not going to be a parrot like the opposition, constantly mocking the government and questioning why they were not introduced in the first place, when they had 10 years in government to do something and did absolutely nothing.


It is the little things too: when we see 15-year-olds walking into bottle shops and servos, taking grog and food and then turning around and telling the staff, 'You can't touch us'; when we see police being taunted on social media because the police have been powerless under the previous government; and when we see that something must be wrong with the juvenile justice system when they are committing crimes to get into detention centres.

No sensible Queenslanders should be against youth being treated as adults if they commit serious offences including rape, sexual assault, murder, torture, kidnapping, arson and remaining serious offences that are added under this bill. I do agree that the government did not need an expert panel to tell them what serious offences qualify as adult crime. I have also maintained, along with the KAP, that strong laws act as a deterrent and send a strong message to would-be offenders. This bill alone will not solve the problem.

We need additional laws and sentencing options for the courts to ensure we have a comprehensive approach in reducing youth crime. This is why the KAP has pushed for laws such as Castle Law to be introduced—that is, if some thug is breaking into your home, you should be able to use whatever force necessary. If they come out second best, they should never have been in your home in the first place. I firmly believe that Castle Law would stop many break and enters from occurring as it sends a clear message to would-be offenders that there are serious consequences for their actions.

Another one is minimum mandatory sentencing, providing courts with a direction on minimum sentencing for serious crimes. Another one is relocation sentencing. These things need to be added to strengthen the laws here in Queensland and to make a difference. Relocation sentencing is about giving the courts another option to send them out to remote locations to muster, build cattle yards, drive graders and front-end loaders which teaches them values and skills. If we send them out bush to these remote locations and teach them these values and skills, we can guarantee that when they go back home the last thing they will want to do is commit crime to be sent back out there.

At least the new government is trying to do something to stem this youth crime scourge that was out of control under the previous government. As I have highlighted very strongly, much more needs to be done. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.12 pm): I rise to address the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025. This bill is more than just another piece of legislation. It is a further defining step forward. It sends a clear message to Queenslanders that the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government is continuing the important reform work that we promised, strengthening our youth justice laws to restore community safety.

In just six months, Queenslanders have witnessed a clear contrast to the past decade. We were elected with a clear mandate: to end Labor's chaos and neglect and to provide a fresh start for Queensland. Before Christmas we passed the first tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time laws, ensuring serious young offenders face real consequences. Today's bill represents the next phase of that commitment.

This legislation expands section 175A of the Youth Justice Act 1992, adding 20 new serious offences eligible for adult penalties. These include rape, attempted rape, arson, kidnapping, drug trafficking, torture, ramming police vehicles, sexual assault and attempted murder. The Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government makes no apology for taking decisive action. We are restoring accountability and community safety that was eroded under years of misguided Labor policies.



Under Labor, detention was made a last resort, breach of bail was removed, youth crime escalated, and repeat offending went unaddressed. A generation of young criminals learned there were no real consequences for action. By contrast, the Crisafulli LNP state government has listened to victims, police and communities. We established an expert legal panel—including legal, law enforcement and victims' representatives—to assess which offences should carry adult penalties. These recommendations informed this bill. Importantly, these amendments still allow courts to exercise proportionality in sentencing, but now those courts will no longer be shackled by constraints that previously prevented them from delivering sentences that match community expectations.

These reforms, like those already implemented, are measured and targeted. They balance the need for public safety, offender accountability and deterrence. Already Queenslanders are seeing results. Across Queensland, crime is down three per cent when comparing January to April 2025 with the same period the year before. Robbery is down more than 15 per cent, unlawful entry is down by over 11 per cent and car theft is down by almost 8.5 per cent.

For local residents in the electorate of Moggill and the Brisbane west region, we have seen a 10.5 per cent reduction in the unlawful use of a motor vehicle. Wounding offences are down by more than 38 per cent and robberies have decreased by almost 11 per cent. That is real change but we know that the work is not done. We know that certainly more needs to be done. There are certainly promising signs and the beginnings of the recovery from a decade of neglect.

The Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government is determined to keep going. Queenslanders deserve a government that puts their safety first. We are not just responding to crime; we are also preventing it. There are many important programs like Staying on Track, Regional Reset and the Kickstarter grants program as well that provide early intervention to help break the cycle of offending. Prevention is the most powerful form of protection we can offer. When serious crimes are committed, there must be serious consequences. That is the principle behind Adult Crime, Adult Time—accountability, safety and respect for victims.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** I hear the interjections from the member for Logan. That is why we are taking this issue very seriously. We are committed to restoring community safety. We are committed to ensuring that we end a decade of the youth crime crisis which was under the former Labor governments—both the Palaszczuk and Miles Labor governments. We have had to take serious reforms and implement our legislative agenda. We were given a clear mandate at the last election. That is why we continue to strengthen the laws with respect to dealing with these issues.


Restoring community safety is very important for the people of Queensland. I know members on the other side have not accepted the fact that it was their decisions that led to a generation of youth criminals who have been committing offences.

**Mr Boothman:** Untouchables.

**Dr ROWAN:** I take the interjection from the member for Theodore—untouchables who clearly thought that they were above the law, that they could commit these offences, that they could jeopardise community safety.

These laws are about ensuring accountability and ensuring safety and respect for victims. All Queenslanders know they can trust the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government to continue strengthening laws and restoring confidence in our justice system—not through words but through actions. That is what this government is about. This government is about action. It is about delivering for all of Queensland.

This legislation reflects community expectations. It puts victims first. It tells young offenders, 'If you commit adult crimes, you will face adult penalties.' After 10 years of Labor failure, Queenslanders demanded change. With the Crisafulli LNP state government, that is exactly what they are getting. As such, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.18 pm): All Queenslanders hold a unified common goal of making our community safer. Nowhere is that more true than in my electorate of Mount Ommaney. No politician has a monopoly on the universal view that Queenslanders deserve to feel safe and they must be safe in their homes, in their workplaces, in their community and as they go about their daily lives. I want to reflect that that is about more than just statistics; it is also about people's emotional wellbeing.

The opposition will be supporting these laws. The fact is that the government should have properly consulted on the first tranche. That is why it is important that the minister releases the advice

of the expert panel. Without knowing what is in that report, how can Queenslanders have any confidence that this next tranche of laws will make the difference?

The LNP has so far refused to release the advice of the hand-picked Expert Legal Panel that it relied on to add 20 new offences. Queenslanders and all members of this House deserve to know what advice the LNP relied on to make these laws. With reference to the Expert Legal Panel, in the public briefing the director-general of the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support said—

They reported expressly to the minister. The Minister made decisions. Of course, the department then would have been involved in providing support to the minister around cabinet submissions and the whole drafting process. Clearly, it is a matter for the Minister and it is a policy issue for government.

As I understand it, the panel's advice was sent directly to the minister and considered by cabinet, yet not a single page has been tabled or shared with the parliament. Not a single organisation that appeared before the committee has seen the advice. It is not entirely clear how they went about consulting or who has been consulted. Several stakeholders are on record as saying they were not consulted.

The statement from the director-general does not actually refer expressly to a written report. Reference is made to advice and reporting to the minister. Without the release of the report that is being relied upon for this legislation more and more questions are raised. Is it a written report? Was it a verbal report? Who has seen the report, or has anybody? Have people heard the report's advice? We heard members opposite in their contribution make some reference to a report. Have they seen the report? Have they been briefed about the report? There is no need to for all of these questions. We could have them answered so easily if the report, whatever form it is in, was released publicly.

Throughout the committee process there were many fantastic stakeholders who did put their thoughts on the public record and so I thank those many stakeholders who came before the committee. One thread that has come through very clearly is the need for early intervention. The Queensland opposition believes the stakeholders who continue to advocate to protect Queenslanders. Our parliament should enact strong laws that support community safety, coupled with proper investment in early intervention programs and community safety programs such as early intervention programs. Indeed, one of the submitters, Voice for Victims, said in support of early intervention programs—

Voice for Victims is a strong advocate for an overhaul of youth detention options in Queensland and expansion of early intervention programs.

Victims recognise penalties alone will not fix Queensland's youth crime crisis, and in addition to harsher sentences imposed on the worst offenders, we must engage actively in prevention, early intervention, diversion and rehabilitation both at the pre and post-custody stage, as well as during court processes along with a continuum of intensifying consequences, including detention.

Whilst in detention, we must see a focus on education, vocational training, skills development, work opportunities, developing pro-social peer groups and community reintegration.

Much also must be done to intervene in family systems that are broken and dysfunctional. We must provide structured options and opportunities for graduated and supervised release with alternate placement and accommodation options away from the environments that led to the offending.

Stakeholders in public hearings have been clear that legislation alone will not solve the problem. Increased and strong investment in early intervention programs, our justice and court system, victim support services and our youth justice and corrective services areas are vital to ensure that this unified common goal of making our community safer is realised. It is important that victims and victim-survivors are supported, but it is equally important to ensure that Queenslanders do not become victims in the first place.

However, the actions of the Liberal National Party government, led by Premier Crisafulli, have made it clear that the LNP rushed their laws through the Queensland parliament, resulting in unintended consequences. That is where I have serious concerns because at the time we asked that, for some of the noncore offences, we be given a longer time to consult. We are coming back now for that second tranche, and that is why I have serious concerns. I return to the issue of the expert panel report not being released. Without seeing that report and knowing the offences contained within that report we know that the first tranche of legislation did miss some offences, so how can we be sure that with the second tranche we are making the most of this legislative opportunity. As I said, we do not know what that report says. We do not know its terms of reference. We do not know who was consulted. We do not know how many offences are mentioned. Was it 10? Was it 40? As I said, we do not even know if it is actually a written report. Was the report written or was it verbal? How long is the report? We do know that the minister has the power and the ability to make the panel's advice public.

**Ms Bush:** It would be lovely to see it.

**Ms PUGH:** It would indeed. We do not know what is in that report, and if the minister has her way we will never know. That is not the transparency the Crisafulli government promised. The reaction we saw on Monday from the Minister for Corrective Services to the basic questions the media asked about the release of the report speaks volumes. I call on the minister to release that report.

The Labor opposition supports strong action and tough laws to protect Queenslanders because, as I said, everybody deserves to feel safe and be safe. We believe that even one victim of crime is one too many. We must use all of the many varied and collective tools in our arsenal to reduce crime in our communities. As many members of the opposition have said, we believe that the government has a mandate on this issue, but we do not want to see legislation continually coming before the House because it has not been consulted on properly.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Keep the chatter down, please.

**Ms PUGH:** Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker. In my contribution on the last legislation I thanked the members of my community who shared their stores with me about crime that happened in our community and their families and friends who reached out to me to share their stories. They come to my regular Coffee with a Cop events to do exactly that. I do regret to inform the House that six months down the track I am still hearing those reports. That is why I am so keen to make sure this legislation is well targeted and includes the offences that it needs to. That is why I call on the minister to release the advice.

Debate, on motion of Ms Pugh, adjourned.

## MOTION

### Order of Business



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (5.27 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, for today's sitting, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the House will continue to sit past 9.30 pm to consider government business until the adjournment is moved by the Leader of the House, to be followed by a 30-minute adjournment debate.



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (5.28 pm): I move the following amendment—

'That the following be inserted after the words 'adjournment debate':

2. the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025 be declared an urgent bill that the Minister is to be called to reply to the Bill by 6.40 pm on Thursday, 22 May 2025 and that all remaining stages of the Bill be completed by 9.00 pm on Thursday, 22 May 2025;
3. If all stages have not been completed by the time specified in 2., the Speaker shall put all remaining questions necessary to complete consideration of the Bill, including clauses en block and any amendments to be moved by the Minister in charge of the Bill, or by Members of Parliament.'

Mr Speaker, you have ruled on the rights of members to be heard in relation to this matter. The Leader of the House has moved a motion with respect to the sessional orders to provide the opportunity for members to speak in relation to this bill. We certainly welcome the opportunity to ensure all members are able to speak in relation to this important matter. The amendment I propose does not seek to delay the passing of the bill beyond this sitting of parliament. What it does is ensure there is adequate time available for consideration in detail. I want to flag to the House that the opposition has circulated a number of amendments that we would like the opportunity to move during consideration in detail and believe that there are important questions to be asked of the relevant minister during that process.



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.32 pm): Mr Speaker, I would seek your clarification of whether the amendment is in order under the standing orders. That is the first thing I want to raise. The second thing is in relation to the government. The government has given a clear commitment that we were going to pass this legislation tonight. It is our intent to do so. There is other important government business that needs to be addressed in the remaining part of the sitting week as well. We have important matters—

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** I understand that members opposite do not have respect when it comes to the contributions people want to make on behalf of their communities. The Labor opposition neglected those communities over the past 10 years—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! There are a number of members on the warning list who will not be here for the debate of anything.

**Dr ROWAN:** Those members abandoned those communities over many years. This is important legislation that we are trying to pass on behalf of Queenslanders.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I do not want to hear anything further from you, member for Woodridge.

**Dr ROWAN:** This is important legislation that we have a clear mandate to pass, on behalf of Queenslanders, to restore community safety in communities right across Queensland which were recklessly abandoned by the former Labor government.

With respect to the amendment that has been moved, I state for the benefit of the House that there is important government business and other matters that we need to progress tomorrow. We are intent on passing this legislation tonight. Therefore, the amendment as moved by the Manager of Opposition Business is not supported by the government.

### Speaker's Ruling, Amendment Out of Order

**Mr SPEAKER:** The advice I have received is that the amendment is beyond the scope of the original motion. Under standing order 94, I rule the amendment out of order. I will now put the original motion.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## MOTION

### Sexual Offences, Legislative Reform; Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (5.36 pm): On behalf of the Leader of the Opposition I move—

That this House:

1. notes that the former Labor government referred to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council a referral which resulted in a report entitled *Sentencing of sexual assault and rape; the ripple effect*.
2. notes that the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council undertook extensive consultation with Queenslanders, experts and stakeholders over an 18-month period, which resulted in 28 recommendations.
3. notes that the Crisafulli LNP government only took legislative action to implement four of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council recommendations this week after public calls by the Labor opposition.
4. notwithstanding anything contained within standing and sessional orders under the provisions of standing order 137, the Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 be declared an urgent bill and not stand referred to a committee and be considered this sitting week;

That all stages of the bill be completed during this week's sitting before 9.00 pm on Thursday; and

If all stages have not been completed by 9.00 pm Thursday, the Speaker shall put all remaining questions necessary to pass the bill including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill without further amendment or debate.

Last night and just now, the LNP government have used their majority to overturn sessional orders to sit into the night to fix the youth justice minister's botched crime laws. This LNP government were using powers, just like those in this motion, to amend the sessional orders so that they could patch up their mistakes—laws that turned out to have more holes in them than a pair of Crocs. We saw them scrambling in the wake of the Attorney-General wasting weeks on the Trusts Bill, a bill that had bipartisan support. We found out today from the Speaker's ruling that urgency on that bill was not supported by her colleagues. This is an Attorney who simply does not have the confidence of her colleagues, from what every Queenslanders can see. From that debacle to last night's debacle to their scramble on sentencing laws, Queenslanders can see how incompetent this government is.

There is just one reason the Attorney has introduced this bill. That is, the shadow attorney-general circulated practically identical reforms. It is because Labor tabled amendments to put the rights of victims of rape above the rights of criminals. The *Courier-Mail* made it clear today when they said—

It follows pressure from the Opposition to implement the recommendations of a report on rape and sexual assault by the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council.

Today, this motion establishes an important choice for Premier Crisafulli—a premier in charge of a government that it seems is all about political expediency, a premier who has already failed Queenslanders once with his botched youth justice laws. He has a choice to support this motion, a choice to protect victims. Since *The ripple effect* report has been sitting on the desk of the Attorney-General, I am advised that over 1,500 Queenslanders have been victims of rape. Since this motion was tabled this morning, another two Queenslanders will have become victims of rape.

The choice for Premier Crisafulli is to support this motion today. If he continues to choose his political expediency over the rights of victims and fails to support this motion, over 1,000 further Queenslanders will become victims before these laws pass. He has chosen politics over people all this week. He spent question time focused on personal attacks and inside politics. Where was his big focus on cost of living? Today every Queenslanders found out what they have been up to on health: cuts to youth health programs. It speaks volumes about what this government's priorities are.

If the LNP will not support this motion, it does not just speak to their priorities; it speaks volumes about their integrity. Will Premier Crisafulli put the interests of convicted rapists ahead of victims of crime? Will he put the reputation of this failing Attorney-General before those victims? They are failing women under respect at work and delaying this sort of justice for victims, and that is why we are seeing commentators like Brittany Higgins saying this about Premier Crisafulli—

The Queensland government's recent actions demonstrate a disturbing regression—lagging even further behind than the Morrison government ...

She said they were worse than Scott Morrison. The LNP government promised to put victims first. Tonight they can cut the talk and they can walk the walk. Will they protect victims? The *Courier-Mail* has already reported that the LNP government have trashed their own reputation when it comes to community safety. It said that it has cost them some of their crime-fighting credibility—‘the sting out of the LNP's crime-fighting reputation’.

Tonight this LNP government, which has been forced to act by this Labor opposition, has a choice. The government needs to vote for this motion and resist the temptation to amend it for its own political expediency. The Crisafulli LNP government has an important choice right now. Will the Premier put victims first, or will he double down and protect the reputation of the Attorney-General over victims of crime? The Premier has a choice. Will he come into this House tonight and genuinely put victims first, or will he come in here and double down and see the remaining pieces of his and his government's integrity in tatters?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, Wednesdays are a bit different so those who were on a warning at question time remain on a warning. They are the members for Waterford, Logan, McConnel, Ferny Grove, Miller, Nanango and Bundaberg.



**Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (5.40 pm): I move the following amendment—

‘That all words after ‘That this House’ be omitted and the following paragraphs inserted:

1. notes the former Labor government took 10 years in power to make a referral to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, which resulted in a report entitled *Sentencing of sexual assault and rape: the ripple effect*;
2. notes that, in contrast, the new LNP government took only a few months to act on this important issue;
3. notes the LNP's calm and methodical approach in dealing with various crises and failures of the former Labor government, including on this issue.’

This matter is apparently so important to the Leader of the Opposition that he does not even bother to turn up for his own motion. Apart from them over there—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The standing orders make it clear that members are not to reflect on the absence of members. I ask that you ask the Attorney to withdraw and refrain from doing that.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr de BRENNI:** My apologies, Mr Speaker. It is a convention.

**Mr SPEAKER:** It is a convention; it is not a standing order. I remind the member of that.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw. It is fascinating to see the hypocrisy of those opposite who are desperately trying to do this political stunt and take credit for the work of the members of QSAC. I think that is to whom the credit should go. I also want to recognise the victims, the families of victims, support services, the advocates and the legal professions who participated in the council's review and all victims who are affected by rape and sexual offences. They are the driving force we are acting for.

Those opposite may want to ram laws through this parliament. We know that they try to rest on their record; well, I am going to explain their record. I wonder why they are in such a hurry on this one. Let's have a look at the other recommendations and what the shadow attorney-general did when she was sitting around the cabinet table for a decade? How many QSAC reports did they even bother to dust off and take off the shelf? I checked what was in the council's last annual report which was given to the former government. That report said that the 2019 report titled *Community-based sentencing orders, imprisonment and parole options* had 74 outstanding recommendations. That is how much the former government considered the victims of crime, the victims of sexual assault and the victims of rape. Those 74 recommendations were ignored for five years. The report said—

The Queensland Government—

which was the former Labor government—

is still considering recommendations from the Council's Terms of Reference review on the serious violent offences ... scheme delivered in May 2022.

For nearly 2½ years, there was no action by the former Miles and Palaszczuk Labor governments. What about this one comment in the QSAC report? It stated—

The Government—

meaning the former Labor government—


has previously committed to legislate to give effect to all recommendations contained in the Council's *Penalties for Assaults on Public Officers: Final Report* ...

When was that report delivered? It was delivered in August 2020. Those failed former ministers committed to legislate 13 recommendations, but how many did the former attorney-general—who was the attorney-general for three years and is now the shadow treasurer—actually implement? Out of the 13 recommendations they told the Queensland public they were going to implement, how many did she actually implement? Just one. The hypocrites can keep coming. Those opposite have obviously forgotten how to govern, because for me to get a bill before the House—just like I did—I had to take it to cabinet. When did we do that? That would have been months ago.

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Unlike those opposite, we then allowed the other departments to be part of the consultation process because we know exactly what they said about the former child safety minister. We know about the files that were thrown at public servants through lifts. We know about the stories. That is how they treat public servants.

This is what we are going to do. We are going to make sure this legislation goes through the committee process because there are people out there who have the right to be able to feed into that committee process, and those opposite know it. They are trying to take credit away from the people who deserve the credit, and that is the victim-survivors of rape and sexual assault.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (5.46 pm): Before I begin my contribution, I would like to respond to the Attorney-General's amendment and put some facts on the record. It was in fact the former Labor attorney-general who referred this matter to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council in 2023 and this matter was considered by the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce in 2021, so I recommend that the Attorney-General amend her motion because she has just misled the House.

I will come to the Leader of the Opposition's motion. There were 3,898 recorded rape and attempted rape offences in Queensland in one year—75 a week, and more than 10 a day. The Crisafulli government has used this parliament to rush through laws in the youth justice system, despite some of the recent tranche of changes recording zero or an extremely low proportion of proven offences over the last five years. The LNP bypassed the normal length of time for the committee examination because they were going to fix crime by Christmas, apparently.

When it comes to reforms for victim-survivors of sexual assault and rape, there is not that same sense of urgency from those opposite. The Trusts Bill was apparently deemed urgent but not serious matters of sexual violence. Instead, we are told by Minister Frecklington that this bill needs to 'undergo the appropriate level of scrutiny it deserves through the committee process'. Unlike Adult Crime, Adult Time laws, these reforms have come about because of an over 800-page review that, in Minister Frecklington's own words, involved 'extensive research and consultation over a 19-month period with legal and non-legal stakeholders, including victims, support organisations and advocacy groups'. That report is publicly available and it has been sitting on the Crisafulli government's desk for months and months—in fact, since December.

It is a report that Labor commissioned. The truth is the LNP have been forced to introduce this bill after Labor announced over the weekend that, if the government was not going to act, we would. Earlier this week, in good faith, we shared our amendments with the LNP. Now, miraculously, the Crisafulli government has cobbled together this bill, coincidentally responding to just the four recommendations that Labor announced we would be amending over the weekend, along with apparently changes to crimes at sea. I will put aside my cynicism about the motives by the LNP and why, with all the resources of government, they just chose to amend the sections that we had already announced and not all of the other recommendations, given the significant amount of resources they have.

If Minister Frecklington was serious about addressing these issues 'in a staged manner that allows changes to be progressed without unnecessary delays', then the LNP would support Labor's motion, which is about their own bill. If they do not, then this is a pattern of behaviour of this government delaying and cutting important protections for women, like stopping the *Respect@Work* and discrimination protections from coming into effect, which prompted people like Brittany Higgins to speak out saying, 'By pausing this legislation indefinitely without any clear explanation just further proves that the state government isn't taking the concerns of the women in their state seriously,' or having to backflip on the Queensland government emailing workers and stakeholders that a \$3 million puberty health education project was going to be cut, a program at school that was specifically aimed to teach primary students about how to develop respectful relationships and to understand consent.

We heard the contribution of the member for Surfers Paradise this morning, apparently taking great offence at the fact that we are saying that the LNP have a women problem. I would say have a look at the Queensland Statistician's Office data which shows that women and girls are overwhelmingly the victims of sexual violence; men and boys are overwhelmingly the perpetrators—in fact, 99.3 per cent—and yet the LNP are delaying protections and have had to backflip on funding cuts designed to change this culture. I think it is pretty clear the LNP have a women problem.

Today, this motion establishes an important choice for Premier Crisafulli: vote for the motion, or double down and vote to protect the reputation of the Attorney-General, because the reality is every day we wait, another woman is raped or is the victim of sexual assault, and clearly reforms are not urgent for the LNP.

*(Time expired)*

 **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) (5.51 pm): I would like to inform the House of a story of a young woman in Rockhampton whose mother contacted me when under the former government, after she was raped, she sat in a hospital for hours and hours, not seen, then sent home and told to take photos of her injuries.

**Mr Nicholls:** No forensic medical kits.

**Ms CAMM:** There were no forensic medical kits available—I will take that interjection from the health minister. Labor's record on rape was called out when the then leader of the opposition—our Premier today—and I stood up outside of this House and called on those opposite to get rid of the substandard rape kits that they had forgotten about updating. Substandard rape kits: that is how far ahead they put victims of rape. 'It is all about the victims.' No, substandard rape kits were all about perpetrators. There was no perpetrator accountability under those opposite. They come in here, playing politics for a media stunt. They have no credibility. Victim numbers have blown out under those opposite over 10 years, whether they be domestic violence victims, sexual assault victims or victims of the youth crime crisis. Those opposite have zero credibility when it comes to standing up for victims.

We heard from the shadow attorney-general and the Manager of Opposition Business who went on to talk about the Premier and protecting a reputation. Who is protecting the reputation over there of the Leader of the Opposition? Who is protecting that reputation? Who has been protecting the reputation of the member for Stafford? Who has been protecting that reputation? The shadow attorney-general has. The shadow minister for women has. Every female over there has. Still, I do not understand that if those opposite are so proud of their record and of their conviction, why has no female member of the Labor Party stood up and answered why they were happy to stand by silently—

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would ask that the Attorney-General, for her amendment, authenticate the timeframes outlined in part 1 of the motion. I would ask for that to be authenticated.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will seek some advice. Attorney-General, the first line: 'notes the former Labor government took 10 years'—

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order which relates to the point of order raised by the member for Waterford. It is a matter of public record in relation to the term of the former Palaszczuk and Miles Labor governments.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The advice I have is to ask you, member for Waterford, what part of this do you take exception to in regards to the time frame of 10 years?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Part 1: 'notes the former Labor government took 10 years to make a referral to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council'. It is a matter of public record, *Ripple Effect* report is published and it clearly states that the then government referred the matter to them in 2023. I would ask if the attorney has different facts she would like to put forward. She needs to authenticate that, or perhaps you could rule the motion out of order if she is unable to.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is legitimately a matter of debate for the House and for the House to decide on. This is not a matter of requiring—

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

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

**Mr NICHOLLS:** It is a matter of debate for the House, not a matter of the attorney being required to provide some sort of evidence in order to satisfy the requirements of the rules relating to the movement of a motion. It is completely unheard of for that to be the case. It is a matter of debate for the House.

**Mr SPEAKER:** In the interests of moving forward, I intend to amend that motion to 'notes the former Labor government took significant time to make a referral'.


**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, I am happy with that amendment.

**Ms CAMM:** For clarification, and let us take a history lesson, the Labor government were elected in 2015. Then they waited until they established the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce in 2021 before they took any action in 2023 because they had not been listening to victim-survivors prior to that, Mr Speaker? I am a little confused, but I do believe that potentially women were raped across Queensland well before 2021.

What we know of those opposite through the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce and through what has been outlined by the Attorney is that they take their time. They wait for recommendation after recommendation. When I came into my portfolio I saw all of the red marks against the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce recommendations which those opposite had failed to implement. Those opposite come into this House and talk about putting victims first while wanting to rewrite history on the back of the worst sexual assault figures overseen by them for a decade and the worst domestic violence and breaches figures overseen by them for a decade.

They talk about rapists being set free. Let us look at the record of the previous attorneys-general—the substandard rape kits under those opposite. I would welcome an interjection from those opposite to defend their record on rape kits across this state, but I think they know their record. I think they know their record when it comes to survivors with lived experience, and I certainly know the record because of the advocates, the victim-survivors and the services that support them. If they had done the best job, then I wonder why we have a record number of sexual assaults and rapes. We have been in government for six months and we are cleaning up the mess of those opposite. They did not put perpetrators' rights ahead of victims' rights.

(Time expired)

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (6.00 pm): 'He is a good bloke.' 'He is a pillar of the community.' 'He comes from such a great family,' and, 'He has never done anything like this before.' The women of Queensland have heard it all—in courtrooms, in headlines and repeated around dinner tables—excuses used to cast doubt, to downplay violence and to defend the indefensible but being a 'good bloke' does not erase a victim's harm. It does not soothe the family who is torn apart and it does not justify the actions of a person who has sexually assaulted or raped another person. Queenslanders need urgent legislative change to better support victim-survivors of sexual assault and rape, and the Labor opposition team are demanding that we make those changes here in parliament this week.

The Premier of Queensland has said that this government will put victim-survivors front and centre of their plans. We are 200 days into this new government and we have seen nothing from them to support rape and sexual assault victims, 99 per cent of whom are women. We know this government




has a problem with women. It started with the gag motion on abortion when they walked in here and, in an unprecedented move, removed our right to debate the issues that are important to women in Queensland who want access to timely and safe abortions. That is an issue, and their clear disregard of women's issues has continued. They left rape and sexual assault out of their signature Adult Crime, Adult Time legislation and we are back in here this week having to fix that one up. Now we learn that the Attorney-General has been in possession of a report that recommended removing the good character defence from rape and sexual assault charges for 157 days and they have kept absolutely silent on that issue. This government promised a fresh start but it feels a bit more like spraying Febreze over a gym bag to me, trying to mask an odour of inertia.

The QSAC report made 28 evidence-based recommendations. Guess how I know that? QSAC published those recommendations, because that is what professional bodies do—they consult, they analyse, they recommend and, guess what, they publish their recommendations. The Labor opposition's motion is to follow the QSAC recommendations to remove the good character test to ensure perpetrators who sexually abuse children are held to account. Courts should not assume that just because a victim does not prepare a victim impact statement no harm has been caused. These recommendations are urgent and we should pass that legislation this week—not in three months time when the parliamentary committee has provided a report, not in a year when the government gets around to doing it. The Labor opposition has tabled amendments and we are calling on the government to get these laws passed this week.

The government had no issue with declaring their Adult Crime, Adult Time legislation urgent and fast-tracking that process. Hell, even the Trusts Bill was considered urgent by this government. They have set this precedent, so why are female victims of rape considered to lesser by this government? QSAC has done all the work for the government. They have said that here tonight. They have done a comprehensive review—data analysis, subject matter expert consultation, community expectation meetings. Over 19 months they have undertaken this work. Unlike the Expert Legal Panel, they made their findings public.

These are critical reforms for women and girls in Queensland. The government has drafted the bill, the consultation has occurred and a mature government would put politics aside and progress the bill this week. In Queensland, there are 75 rapes reported each week. That is at least 1,640 victim-survivors who will have to face their perpetrators in court between now and when these reforms actually take effect under the government's proposal. The QSAC report found from their data sample that 92 per cent of District Court rape cases involved character references and that 25 per cent of those cases relied on good character references which significantly impacted the sentencing outcome. What does the Premier have to say to those 1,640 victims who will have to live through this experience, knowing he could have intervened this week to stop that trauma? I support this motion. We have all the information that we need in this House to change these laws this week. The Labor opposition stands with our victim-survivors who are calling for this reform. The question is: will the government put their words into action? Will they put politics aside and pass these laws this week?

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (6.05 pm): We have a motion from Labor before the chamber today that beggars belief. At the outset, we should be clear about what we are dealing with here. The policy question is this: should a person who has been convicted of a sexual offence be able to rely, at the time of their sentencing hearing, on that they are of good character to get a lighter sentence? The LNP have a bill before this chamber that says no. The bill restricts the use of the three different types of good character evidence when sentencing offenders who are convicted of sexual offences. If you are convicted of sexual assault you are not—let's be clear—of good character. The only thing that your character might be relevant to is your prospect of rehabilitation. I can only imagine how hard it must be for a victim of sexual assault to hear a convicted sexual offender stand up, whether personally or through their lawyer, and claim to have a great standing and contribution in the community.

Those opposite—desperate to claim some kind of a win, desperate to change the subject from the topic of the youth crime crisis they created, desperate to distract from the youth crime rate that ballooned by 98 per cent over the period they were in government—have put forward this motion seeking to claim a bodgie version of this policy for themselves. Let's be real here: the facts do not lie. They had 10 years in government. Not once did they put a bill before this chamber to effect this change. Three attorneys-general over 10 years had more than enough time to do it. The best they could cook up was a generalised referral to the Sentencing Advisory Council to look into a range of issues. They cannot seriously now be claiming to treat this as a priority. All they mustered was a referral. They can hardly claim that this is a matter that they are now prepared to treat as urgent. They did not legislate for a decade and they had more than enough chance, but now they say that this change is so urgent

that the calm and methodical processes for doing legislation right should not apply, even though for 10 years they did not act. Let's compare and contrast. The LNP have barely been in government for six months—six months versus 10 years—and yet in six months we have put forward a bill to make the change.

We are doing it right. Let's be real here though. Even if we were for a moment to say, 'Let's do what Labor is proposing,' the amendment they have put forward does not do the job that they say it would. By targeting section 9 in their amendment instead of section 11 they get everything upside down. It means that the amendment they propose would not have the effect they claim in any event. It means either they think we should be cutting victims' trauma out of the equation for sentencing considerations, which is what their amendment would in fact do, or their processes are so sloppy they do not even realise that is what it would do. All of this shows a need for a proper process, proper examination for an amendment using the processes of this parliament as they are designed to do.


Let's bell the cat here. This was never about the victims of sexual offences for Labor. After all, a record number of Queenslanders became victims of crime during their 10 years in government. It was always about the media stunt. It was never about doing the right thing by the people in our community who need it. It is absolutely important that Queensland's sentencing laws are getting even stronger. It is essential to be able to deal with a crime crisis that was allowed to flourish under Labor. However, we do not fix that with quick and sloppy jobs from those opposite. We have to get the drafting right, and that is exactly what our responsible and methodical government is doing.

**Ms Mullen:** It's your bill. Are you saying your bill is sloppy? It's quick and sloppy.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Jordan.

**An opposition member:** It's not just sloppy; it is quick and sloppy.

**Mrs STOKER:** They do not want to hear it, but the facts are facts. We will make the right changes. We will do it with the checks and balances. We will build a safer community for all Queenslanders.


 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (6.10 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. It has now been 157 days since the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council handed down its landmark *The ripple effect* report to which this bill we discuss tonight responds. This report comes from deep and respectful engagement with victim-survivors, legal professionals, advocacy workers and the public. It is a report that is aptly named *The ripple effect* because sexual violence does not just impact a single moment or even the single person it happened to; it echoes often for a lifetime and it deeply affects the victim and the people who love them. It alters how they move through the world. It changes how safe they feel in their own home, in their community and in their own body.

A total of 3,898 rapes and attempted rapes have been recorded in Queensland in the past year alone. That is 75 per week, 10 every single day, and this government has sat on this report for—I say again—157 days. Those statistics do not just represent numbers; they represent people—people who have names; people who have the right to safety and dignity; people who trusted that when they reported what had happened to them, our justice system would respond with strength, with clarity and with compassion and without regard for how 'nice' their perpetrator may present themselves to be. However, for too many that has not been the reality. This report laid bare what victim-survivors have been saying for years: that our current sentencing laws do not reflect the severity of the crimes committed against them; that our courts place too much emphasis on the specific type of penetration rather than the harm caused or the culpability of the perpetrator; that 'good character' arguments based on community standing, church involvement or employment are being used to soften sentences.

In 91.6 per cent of sexual offence cases reviewed 'good character' was brought up and in over a quarter of those cases it was given a lot of weight. That sends a chilling message that being a respected member of the community can count more than the trauma they have inflicted on another human being. In my books you cannot be a rapist with good character; you cannot be a nice person and commit such a horror. That is not justice. It is certainly not the kind of justice victim-survivors in this state are demanding. On this side of the House we are hearing them loud and clear. What kind of message is the Crisafulli government sending by delaying reforms that victims and experts have already fought so hard to see enacted? What does it say when the Crisafulli government considers a trust bill and an Olympics bill urgent but they do not consider a bill that goes to the heart of sexual violence in our community urgent? I suppose it sends the same message as indefinitely pausing workplace protections that prevent this kind of crime from occurring in the first place, because we have seen that appalling act in the last month, too.

Let's be clear: this bill does not need to go through the committee process; it has already been more thoroughly consulted on than many recent criminal reforms including the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws that are currently being rushed through this House. There were 63 submissions, four consultation events and dozens of stakeholder and survivor interviews to the QSAC review. It is comprehensive, it is balanced and it is ready. Unlike the current YJ reforms before the House, its report is public and open to scrutiny. Not passing this urgency motion would mean a delay of up to 2½ months while the bill goes to committee. That is another 800 victims, if current trends continue, another 800 people whose cases would be heard under laws that are not good enough. That is further compounded by part 4 of the bill in regard to section 9, not section 11, that does not commence until 1 November. They are the good character reforms; they are the victim impact statement reforms—another six months.

This government told Queensland—more than that; it received a mandate from Queensland to put victims first. How does it stack up to that promise to first indefinitely pause workplace sexual harassment laws, then ignore this report for 157 days and now deny this legislation deserves urgency status? When women say they do not feel safe reporting their assaults, it is not because they doubt themselves. It is because they doubt the system. They doubt that our laws will take them seriously. They doubt they will be believed. Every woman in this state deserves better. Every survivor deserves a legal system that sees them, believes them and reflects their pain in its penalty. We cannot let this continue. This bill represents essential reforms that we need now.

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (6.16 pm): I rise to support the amendment moved by my good friend the Attorney-General. After, quite frankly, an incredulous performance from those opposite this week, it would seem they clearly have not gotten the hang of opposition. After 10 years on the government benches, sitting on the ministerial leather, those opposite come into this House and try to rewrite history. Those opposite are pretending that they were not in the driver's seat of government policy for 10 years, a decade. What were they doing in that time? Not an awful lot it would seem.

The member for Murrumba and his Labor Party colleagues have the audacity to come into this place and try to rush through legislation and abandon proper processes to distract from the fact that they did nothing when in government. Those opposite cannot hide from the fact that they took 10 years to make the referral to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, which resulted in the report *Sentencing of sexual assault and rape: the ripple effect*. I repeat: it took them 10 years to make the referral. I am proud to be part of the Crisafulli LNP government.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would ask the member for Mudgeeraba to authenticate her statement that it has taken 10 years to make a referral to the Sentencing Advisory Council.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, if you think that the member is misleading the House you can write to me.

**Ms BATES:** We are finally hearing from the worst child safety minister Queensland has ever had, the only health minister that all of Queensland sacked, the worst health minister in the country.

**Mr Dick:** They love you in TIQ!

**Ms BATES:** Absolutely. I forgot that we have another former attorney-general of the grand country of Tuvalu. We have the former attorney-general here who swapped from one to the other—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba, it would help me if you would address your comments through the chair.

**Ms BATES:** It took 10 years to make a referral. I am proud to be part of the Crisafulli LNP government that has gotten straight to work on this issue despite being at the helm of government for only six months. We certainly did not wait 10 years. The former government was there for 10 years. This is their problem that we are cleaning up. We will not be lectured to by those opposite while we clean up their mess. There is a lot to clean up thanks to a decade of crisis and chaos from Queensland Labor: the youth crime crisis, the Queensland health crisis, the cost-of-living crisis and the housing crisis. Across-the-board Queenslanders were worse off under those opposite and they knew it when they were at the ballot box in October.

We have been clear: the Crisafulli LNP government will be calm and methodical in dealing with Labor's mess, including on the issue of improving support and protection for vulnerable Queenslanders. These are substantial and important reforms and cheap political grandstanding should play no part in their consideration. Queenslanders, including the legal community, deserve the opportunity to provide feedback on these legislative amendments. Those opposite would deny stakeholders the opportunity

to provide a considered response for the sake of their political pointscoring. It is abundantly apparent that the Leader of the Opposition's motion is nothing more than an appalling stunt.


The Crisafulli LNP government's considered yet timely response stands in stark contrast to the actions of those opposite. We will not be criticised by a Labor opposition so desperate to deflect from its own internal crisis and distract from the fact that it made this mess. These are its problems, but we are fixing them. We will continue to work tirelessly and methodically to support vulnerable Queenslanders and we will not be lectured by those opposite given the months they spent defending the member for Stafford: a 'good bloke' the member for Woodridge and member for Greenslopes—former member for Greenslopes—reflected despite the alleged domestic violence incident—oh, and the new member for Greenslopes. Sorry, I got you confused. That is right: you lost your seat and came back again. Now I remember. What an absolute disgrace and an absolute lack of leadership from the member for Murrumba, the member for Woodridge and their Labor Party colleagues. The member for Woodridge stands in this place desperate for the seat currently occupied by the member for Murrumba, but he cannot escape the fact that he supported the member for Stafford. He tells people that he will be the premier one day, but he cannot escape the fact that he spoke at length in this place in support of the member for Stafford. How the member for Woodridge must be regretting that support!

If the member for Murrumba and the Leader of the Opposition truly cared about timely action to support vulnerable Queenslanders, he does not need this motion; he needed to do something about the member for Stafford in the six months he knew about the alleged domestic incident. As I said, we have a former attorney-general and another former attorney-general who have been waiting 10 years—

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms BATES:** They have been waiting nearly 10 years, but they were in government for 10 years. Nearly 10 years it took them, but they were there for 10 years.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (6.21 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. We do not propose the declaration of urgency on legislation lightly. In fact, it is no secret that we have held concerns about the way the Crisafulli government has conducted itself in this parliament in relation to urgency motions. The government has used urgency motions for one simple reason: it failed to properly plan its legislative agenda. If the government had properly planned its legislative agenda for this parliament, we could have seen this legislation introduced months ago.


The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council's report has been sitting on the Attorney-General's desk for quite some time now. In fact, it has been on the Attorney's desk since December. If the Attorney had done her job and acted quickly to respond to the report's recommendations, this bill could have already been introduced in one of the four sitting weeks that have been held since the start of the year, but no. In a matter of extreme coincidence, the Attorney-General came into this House this week and decided it was finally time for her to do her job and introduce these important reforms into the House. Could that be because the Labor opposition publicly indicated our intention to introduce these amendments to ensure these important reforms be implemented without further delay? Why else would the government come in two days after Labor's announcement and introduce legislation to implement the exact recommendations we sought to introduce?

The QSAC report had 28 recommendations. If the Department of Justice and Attorney-General have been working on this for months, as the Attorney stated in her speech yesterday, why does the legislation not address all 28 recommendations? What is the delay? The government has had the time and the resources to respond to this report and someone cynical could draw the conclusion that the Attorney-General and the government were caught on their back foot and are seeking yet again to remedy their own shortcomings. Given the performance of this government so far, one would be forgiven for being cynical about its actions.

The Labor opposition wrote to the Attorney-General about these amendments which would implement certain recommendations of the QSAC report. There are four key recommendations we are urging the government to immediately move. The first is recommendation 1 amending section 9 to require a court to treat the fact that an offence of rape or sexual assault was committed in relation to a child as aggravating. The report found that sentencing practices do not adequately reflect community views of the seriousness of child sexual offences and that 'this is the best way to acknowledge that a victim under 18 years is more vulnerable'. The second is recommendation 2 to amend section 9(1) of the act to include recognition of the harm done to victim-survivors. This recommendation acknowledges victims' harms based on extensive consultation with survivors. The third is recommendation 5 to amend the act to qualify the current position under the act as to the treatment of good character evidence. The

report found that far too many—91.6 per cent—of cases referred to good character evidence. The simple fact is a person who rapes or assaults someone is not a good person and their friends or family or colleagues saying anything different does not alter what they have done. The fourth is recommendation 23 to amend section 179K(5) to ensure a court does not draw any inference about whether the offence had little or no harm caused to the victim-survivor from the fact that a victim impact statement was not given.

These recommendations put the rights and experiences of victims first. Each day this is delayed it means that 10 more Queenslanders experience the trauma of sexual violence. Countless survivors will face a justice system that fails to adequately acknowledge their trauma or appropriately punish their abusers. They then face a justice system that is not yet reformed to properly address their experiences despite having this gruelling report. There are times when this parliament must act urgently to protect those we represent. This is one of those times. Given the bill mirrors what we announced on Sunday, there should be no question that this is a bipartisan issue. Labor initiated this report. We listened to victim-survivors. We listened to the experts. I urge members to support this motion to expedite the passage of these reforms to send a clear message to those impacted by these acts. We hear the voices of survivors, we acknowledge your pain and we are taking concrete action to ensure our justice system does not fail you.

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.26 pm): The hide of those opposite to come in here and say, 'We hear you; we're taking action,' when they had 10 years in government to legislate this.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** I take the interjection; it is probably nearly 10 years. They had nearly 10 years in government to legislate this, but did they do it? No, they did not. What is worse, when we look at the details of various QSAC reports and the details of what those opposite failed to do, we see that the 2019 annual report for QSAC delivered 74 recommendations. This was the report on community-based sentencing orders, imprisonment and parole options, yet 74 of those recommendations were outstanding—not implemented by those opposite from 2019. At that time the former Labor government was still considering recommendations from the council's terms of reference review on the serious violent offences scheme, and when was that delivered? That was delivered to the former Labor government in 2022 and it failed to act on it. What is more, the former government had previously committed to legislate—to give effect—to all recommendations contained in the council's penalties for assault on public officers report, and when was that from? That was from 2020.

Those opposite have had years and years to be able to implement the changes that they are talking about. In fact, all of these reports sat on the tables of those opposite. The Crisafulli government has been in government for a mere almost 200 days—maybe it is a bit over 200 days actually, but almost six months—but after 10 years in government those opposite are coming in here and saying that after six months we should be fixing up their mess. This is their mess. They have left this mess for us to fix up and have the hide to come in here and say, 'We need to fix it all in just about 200 days.' Labor is attempting to take credit for the important work that QSAC and the brave voices of victims who have shared their stories. While consultation was undertaken during QSAC's review, there has been no opportunity for the community to have its say on the report since it was published in terms of QSAC's recommendations. That is why the committee process is so important. That is why it is only appropriate that this be referred to a committee.


If those opposite want to debate the urgency, let us talk about the amendments they moved this week in the House in relation to the provisions that pertain to the bill that the Attorney has put in the House. Their botched amendments would mean that courts would be prevented from increasing a sentence because of good character evidence. Their botched amendments amend section 11 rather than section 9. The opposition's proposed amendments to section 9 to recognise the harm caused to any surviving victim of the offence would not enable a court to impose a sentence which expressly recognises the harm caused to the victim of unlawful killing by an offender, including the harm caused to them immediately before death. That is what their botched amendments would do to victims of crime.

**An opposition member:** Calm down. We are just over here. We can hear you.

**Mrs GERBER:** Do not tell me to calm down. For example, where a victim was raped or sexually assaulted prior to death, on sentencing the offender a court would not be required to state that they recognised that harm. That is the botched amendment that those opposite put into this House. They come in here and say we should rush this, the community does not deserve consultation, victims of crime do not deserve to be heard during a committee process. They have some hide.

I heard the member for Cooper talk about good bloke evidence. I point out the hypocrisy of those opposite in defending a member of their party, who had alleged domestic violence incidents at their house against them, with good character evidence—yes, member for Greenslopes, I am looking at you. They stood up and gave good bloke evidence for the member for Stafford. Those opposite have zero credibility when it comes to protecting victims of rape and sexual violence.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (6.31 pm): I want to be really clear about what we are debating tonight. I want to be really clear about the arguments that have been put forward by the government tonight. Firstly I want to make it clear that I am rising to speak in support of the motion moved by the member for Springwood, not the amendments put forward by the Attorney-General that have now been amended by the Speaker because it would seem that the Attorney-General could not quite get her amendments right.


Tonight we have seen from those opposite two arguments put forward about why we cannot urgently deliver much-needed reform for victim-survivors. The first is that we took too long to implement these reforms. As a former Attorney-General I am happy to take responsibility, because six months into my term as Attorney-General I set up the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. They looked at how we could better deliver sentencing for victims of rape and sexual assault. They said this is something that QSAC should look at so immediately that was then referred to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council for 18 months. I am happy to put ego and politics aside and say, sure, we actually had two processes that took place and it did take time.

Their second argument put forward tonight is that there needs to be more consultation. The reason we took so long was our Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce had hundreds of women involved in it. Hundreds of victim-survivors came forward with courage and bravery. Then the Sentencing Advisory Council took 18 months to consult with and take submissions from stakeholders, carry out quantitative analysis of datasets, analysis of sentencing remark transcripts, case law analysis, cross-jurisdictional legal analysis, one-on-one interviews with victim-survivors, legal stakeholders and victim-survivor support organisations and commissioned a research project that gathered community views on sentencing. So I am sorry we took a few years to make sure that these bodies consulted with all of these organisations. Their second argument is that this now needs consultation, it has to go to a committee and will not commence until November—months and months away. We know, because our shadow Attorney-General put very clearly the statistics of women who experience rape and sexual assault every day in this state, there is not a day to lose. Which is it, Attorney-General? Do we need more consultation or did we take too long to consult with too many people?

It is none of those reasons. The reason they are not helping us declare their own bill urgent to deliver for victim-survivors is politics, pride and ego. Shame. Can we please just all agree these are important reforms and they are much needed and we want to all deliver for victim-survivors this week in the parliament. We are not insisting that our amendments get voted on. We are not insisting it is done our way. We have said we will support their bill to make it urgent so we can deliver for victim-survivors. They have still said no. I cannot understand why a government who absolutely was brought kicking and screaming to delivering these reforms because we stood up and said it is about time we get it done, would not just say, 'All right, Opposition, you're happy to support our bill. Let's get it done.'

This is too important for politics. It is too important for ego and pride and protecting the reputation of the Attorney-General because a report sat on her desk for six months. A number of victim-survivors have been calling for these changes for years. Now we have done the consultation, not just with them but with legal stakeholders, we have conducted research—131 cases in the District Court were reviewed in 12 months. When it comes to sentencing for rape the Sentencing Advisory Council said it absolutely does not meet community expectations so let us not just deliver for the victim-survivors tonight, let us deliver for Queenslanders and their expectations of what should happen when a so-called good bloke commits rape or sexual assault. Let us get this done this week. We have put politics aside and said we will support the government's motion. It is about time the Premier and the Attorney-General put politics aside and helped us get their own motion and bill through the parliament this week.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (6.36 pm): Let us be very clear, the former Labor government had 10 years to address the sentencing of sexual assault and rape in Queensland. A decade in power, a decade of opportunity, a decade where they could have delivered meaningful reform for survivors and what did they do? They referred the matter to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council near the end of their term. That is it; nothing else. No legislation, no action, no urgency, no justice. That

council then produced a report titled *Sentencing of Sexual Assault and Rape: the ripple effect*. It is a powerful, important piece of work and it gives voice to survivors. It gives insight into their pain, the trauma and the long-term impacts of those horrific crimes. But let us not pretend that it was Labor that pushed through real change. Let us not pretend that they acted decisively or stood up for victims when it mattered. Let us not forget the Labor DNA debacle—one of the greatest failures in relation to rape victims in Australia with more than 40,000 cases left in limbo. They only care about who takes credit. They do not care about victims. In contrast, the new LNP government—

**Mrs Nightingale** interjected.

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

**Ms JAMES:** We are just months into office, we are months into progressing meaningful action on this issue. While Labor sat on their hands for a decade, we got to work in our first few months, calmly, methodically, responsibly because that is what leadership looks like. Queenslanders do not just want a government that acknowledges problems, they want a government that fixes them. They want a government that listens, acts and delivers.

In just six months we are picking up the pieces of a decade-long trail of failure and yet those opposite now demand that we clean up their mess in record time as if they were not the very people who created it. They act like they have just arrived in this chamber, that these problems facing Queenslanders today have nothing to do with their time in government. Queenslanders are not fools. The Labor Party presided over the youth crime crisis, they presided over the Queensland Health crisis, the cost-of-living crisis, the housing crisis and now we can add to that list the failure to act on the sentencing for sexual assault and rape.

This is just another Labor legacy that the LNP government is cleaning up. While the Labor opposition now seeks to reinvent themselves as advocates for vulnerable Queenslanders—the same vulnerable Queenslanders they failed time and time again—their record in this House tells a very different story. They can try to rebrand themselves but the facts speak louder than their spin. We will not be lectured to by a party that spent a decade defending criminals instead of victims.

I take a moment to reflect on something that we cannot ignore. While we are debating legislation about character references in court, we should also remember some of the character references that have been made right here in this chamber. The hypocrisy is staggering. The very people who now claim to be champions of vulnerable Queenslanders stood in this House and used their positions to defend one of their own, despite serious allegations—

**Ms Pease** interjected.

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

**Ms JAMES:**—yet today they stand here pretending to hold the moral high ground. Queenslanders deserve better. They deserve consistency, they deserve compassion and they deserve a government that does not just talk about change but actually delivers it. Under the LNP that is exactly what Queenslanders are getting. We are working through these issues with care, clarity and purpose. We are committed to reforming sentencing laws to ensure that the voices of victims are not just heard but also carry weight. We are restoring confidence in our justice system, we are restoring accountability and, most importantly, we are restoring the public's faith in a government that actually works for them.

Queenslanders elected us to clean up Labor's mess and that is exactly what we are doing. We will not be distracted, we will not be deterred and we will not stop until Queensland is safer, stronger and fairer for every person who calls it home.

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

**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, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Amendment agreed to.

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** A division has been called. 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, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House:

1. notes the former Labor government took significant time to make a referral to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, which resulted in a report entitled *Sentencing of sexual assault and rape: the ripple effect*;
2. notes that, in contrast, the new LNP government took only a few months to act on this important issue;
3. notes the LNP's calm and methodical approach in dealing with various crises and failures of the former Labor government, including on this issue.


Sitting suspended from 6.48 pm to 7.45 pm.

## MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER (ADULT CRIME, ADULT TIME) AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1345, on motion of Mrs Gerber—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (7.45 pm): Every Queenslanders deserves to feel safe in their own home. The LNP believes that. What is telling is the actions of Labor over the years, which suggest that they well and truly do not. As promised, the Crisafulli government enacted the first instalment of the Making Queensland Safer Laws in December last year. At that time we made it clear that it was the first step of many in a long journey.

This legislation is yet another step in delivering Adult Crime, Adult Time and tackling Labor's youth crime crisis. Over the last 10 years, Queenslanders saw, time and again, the former Labor government weaken the Youth Justice Act, resulting in a youth crime crisis and a generation of hardcore repeat youth offenders. ABS data from 2023-24 shows that Queenslanders saw a 98 per cent increase in offences by young people in the previous decade.

While the former Labor government turned a blind eye and gave misleading information about the extent of the youth crime crisis, the Crisafulli government, in contrast, have enlisted an expert legal panel. Its focus is prioritising community safety, strengthening outcomes for victims and building community confidence in the justice system. This panel's work and advice remains ongoing. It will continue to review youth crime data and statistics, engage in stakeholder and sector service consultation, analyse current legislation and reference harm indexes.

From the advice provided by this panel, as promised, we have now made further amendments to the Making Queensland Safer Laws to include an additional 20 offences, including attempted offences, that can now attract adult penalties. Meanwhile, we have seen many games played by those opposite, who continue to bury their heads in the sand as to how they failed Queenslanders.

**Mr Crandon:** They're in denial.

**Mr HEAD:** I take that interjection—they are absolutely in denial. The impact to victims of crime is long-lasting and life-changing. As a result, the Crisafulli government will continue to take a tough stance on youth crime to restore community safety and reduce the number of victims of crime. The Community Justice Action Group speaks in favour of these changes, extending its gratitude for the—

... progressive decision to adopt adult penalties for adult crimes within the youth justice framework.



...

It signals a real commitment to balancing accountability, rehabilitation and community safety, cornerstones of effective justice reform.

As mentioned by the Attorney-General in this House previously, we have given the judiciary the tools to impose sentences that meet community expectations. The Attorney-General, who I might add is doing an excellent job, recently shared quotes from a magistrate sentencing a youth offender who said—

... having more consequences is really what is meant by holding you to account ...

Another, in relation to our laws, said—


You have provided me opportunity to send a very clear message to those children ...

We have seen news headlines like that in the *Cairns Post*, which has also been mentioned by the Attorney-General previously—'New laws catch teenage thief out'. The article was about a young offender involved in 50 stolen car offences, and to quote the magistrate who is now able to see the youth criminal's history—

There is ... a level of immaturity in your offending because you think you can do what you please, because you have not been subject to the adult sentencing world ...

These laws change that. The *Townsville Bulletin* reported on a teenage ramraider who lost his appeal as the judge backed in these new laws. It is encouraging to see the green shoots emerging since the LNP came to power and since the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws were introduced.

We know there is a lot more work to do. We make no apology for putting the rights of victims before the rights of offenders. There is still a lot more work to do but we will continue to strengthen these youth crime laws after a decade of Labor's youth crime crisis. People deserve to feel safe in their own homes and it should be the utmost priority of government to deliver that. That is what the new LNP government, under Premier David Crisafulli, is doing. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (7.50 pm): I rise to speak to the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025. Let me start by saying that everyone, as the member for Callide has said, has the right to feel safe in our own homes, in our communities and indeed in our workplaces. The Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025 reflects, sadly for such an important piece of legislation, a rushed and piecemeal approach that is not delivering results that Queenslanders deserve. It has been marred by missteps, secrecy and a lack of foresight by the Crisafulli government.

The Premier's signature laws were botched from the start. Before the last election, the Premier claimed that these laws had already been written. Yet he refused to release them for scrutiny. You are smiling, Mr Deputy Speaker McDonald. Thank you very much for your smile and encouragement, Mr Deputy Speaker, because you recognise that, no doubt. Despite our offers to work tirelessly to ensure these laws were sound, the government chose arrogance over collaboration.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PEASE:** Obviously by the intervention from the government benches they are supporting my comments, so thank you very much for those comments. Rushed through parliament, these laws were a recipe for unintended consequences, and that became glaringly evident within weeks of their implementation. In the wake of these botched laws, the government hastily assembled an 'expert panel'—and I do say that in inverted commas. This fix-up team was tasked with salvaging the situation. Even this process was flawed.

**Mr Stevens:** You trust us.

**Ms PEASE:** Thank you for your intervention. Yes, you are agreeing that it was flawed. I understand that.

Struggling to find credible experts, they appointed a relation of a ministerial staffer to lead the panel. To date, the advice provided by this 'expert panel' remains shrouded in secrecy. Despite multiple calls from stakeholders including legal, advocacy and community groups—

**Mrs Nightingale:** And victims.

**Ms PEASE:**—and victims, not a single page of the panel's advice has been made public. I wonder why. Transparency is a cornerstone of effective governance, and this government's refusal to release this advice undermines public trust. I will pause there and let you think about that. Public trust—where do you stand on that?

**Mr Stevens:** They trusted us last October.

**Ms PEASE:** Thank you again for your intervention. I take it that you are questioning what this means for public trust because you are failing in that department, thank you, member for Mermaid Beach.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Members, direct your comments through the chair.

**Ms PEASE:** I was speaking through the chair; this gentleman was not. This happened today: at a press conference a victim of crime told 9News that he would really like to see the expert panel advice released. Lo and behold, Minister Gerber could be seen nodding, we take it, in agreement. Given her agreement with the statement, does this mean that the minister will suddenly release the 'expert panel' advice that will benefit all victims of crime? I would love to hear from her or from any of those in the government seats.

The bill before us today represents the fourth—yes, that is correct: the fourth—amendment to the youth justice legislation since December. They are doing pretty well so far—four times and we are only in May! This cycle of rushed lawmaking followed by patchwork fixes is an admission of failure. The government's slogans promised quick fixes to crime, yet critical offences like attempted murder and rape were initially overlooked.

**Mr Field:** Are you going to support it or not?

**Ms PEASE:** Do you want to listen to what I have to say or will I take your intervention? Yes. The opposition supports—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, order!

**Ms PEASE:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I think we have made it quite clear that the opposition supports strong, evidence-based laws.

**Mr Stevens:** That's ours. Well done. Thank you.

**Ms PEASE:** We are selling your message but these laws must be developed thoughtfully and very carefully and deliver real outcomes, not rushed and not designed just for the headlines which is really what you are doing.

Early intervention is essential to breaking the cycle of crime, but this government's commitment to it has been woefully inadequate. The programs they tout are legacy initiatives from the former Labor government, which I was very proud to be part of. Youth co-responder teams—we are not hearing any complaints about that because they are continuing to do that. Intensive bail programs—we are not hearing any complaints about that because that has been successful. Transition 2 Success—how successful has that been! We are not hearing any complaints about that. They are touting the benefits of that. Meanwhile, wait for it, the new 'rolled gold' programs remain in the 'future talk'—again I say that in inverted commas. Minimal funding has been allocated to current projects and we do not know what they look like.

Equally troubling is the lack of infrastructure planning. The newly opened Wacol Youth Remand Centre—again, a Labor initiative—is already under strain. The government has no comprehensive plan to address the increased demand on youth detention. I am really pleased so many members on the government benches are laughing about what I have to say. They obviously do not take this matter very seriously. You are finding it very funny—all of you.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Direct your comments through the chair. Member for Lytton, you are an experienced member in this House.

**Ms PEASE:** And I am reminding you. This is very disappointing to see all of these members in government rushing through this flawed legislation.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton, you are an experienced member of this House. You will direct your debate through the chair, thank you. Your provocation is inciting those on the other side.

**Ms PEASE:** Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. Early intervention is essential to breaking the cycle, as I have said. What is equally troubling is the lack of infrastructure planning. There have been conflicting statements from the department of youth justice highlighting the absence of clear modelling or foresight. Legislation alone cannot solve capacity issues. It requires infrastructure, planning and a commitment to long-term solutions. We have heard the Premier say that there is no quick fix to this.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.


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

**Ms PEASE:** The significant impact of the 2024-25 youth justice laws necessitates oversight. Yet these laws lack a built-in review mechanism. Independent reviews and transparency are essential to ensure these laws achieve their intended outcomes. The opposition have introduced amendments requiring an independent review within 18 months of commencement, with the findings made public. If the government is confident in its approach, it should welcome this scrutiny.

Additionally, we demand monthly reporting of victim and offence data. The Premier promised to resign if victim numbers did not fall. Does he stand by that, or is that just another slogan? Queenslanders deserve regular, consistent updates—not cherry-picked data to mask failures. Our amendments focus on transparency, accountability and meaningful reform. These include: mandating an independent review of the 2024-25 laws within 18 months—that is not too much to ask; releasing expert panel advice; and making public the advice that was relied upon to make these laws. That is what not only the opposition wants to hear but also the victims. They would certainly benefit from that. Minister Gerber made it clear in a presser today with Channel 9 that she wants to hear that too. Also, implementing QSAC recommendations and adopting the expert recommendations for sentencing for sexual assault and rape, ensuring victim-survivors are at the centre of our justice system.

These reforms reflect consensus and community expectations. They are rooted in the principles of fairness, transparency and a commitment to real change. Queenslanders deserve a government that prioritises their safety with evidence-based, well-considered policies. The repeated failures of this government, from botched laws to secrecy and inadequate planning, have highlighted the—

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (8.00 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025, which continues to deliver on the Crisafulli LNP government's election commitment to fix Labor's youth crime crisis and restore community safety across Queensland. How refreshing it is to have a government in this place that does what it says it is going to do. We said we were going to deliver the first tranche of our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws before Christmas last year, and we did. We promised we would create an Expert Legal Panel to provide specialist advice on further offending that should be included within the Adult Crime, Adult Time legislation, and we did. Now, having listened to the recommendations of that expert panel as to further offences that should be included in the Youth Justice Act as part of our Adult Crime, Adult Time reforms, we are updating the list of offences accordingly just as we said we would.

As a government, we are determined to fix the mess left by those opposite, who spent successive years systemically weakening the Youth Justice Act, removing detention as a last resort, removing breach of bail as an offence, and altogether prioritising the rights of juvenile criminals over the rights of victims. Thanks to the former Labor government, a generation of untouchables was created—a generation of hardcore repeat youth offenders who avoided any real consequences for their actions for far too long.

We are under no illusions. It will take time to reverse Labor's youth crime crisis. There is a lot to fix, but we are steadfast in our resolve to see safety resolved to communities across Queensland. We have already seen promising signs. Recent police figures reflect a reduction in key offences across Queensland since the first tranche of the Crisafulli LNP government's Adult Crime, Adult Time legislation was introduced. We have seen early decreases in the number of stolen cars, break-ins, robberies and woundings across Queensland between December and February compared to the same time last year. With these latest amendments, we expect to continue to see improvements in communities across Queensland.


We have listened to Queenslanders across the state who overwhelmingly support longer potential periods of detention to deter young Queenslanders from engaging in serious offending behaviour. Importantly, I note that this bill does not, in fact, remove the ability for the courts to apply sentences proportionately. It simply makes juveniles who commit serious offences subject to the same maximum, minimum and mandatory non-parole periods as adults, something which communities across Queensland have been crying out for. On that note, these reforms are not just important in terms of addressing crime itself but also in improving the way victims of crime are supported in this state. The Victims' Commissioner reflected on the significant impacts of these types of crimes and a community's response to the crime during their remarks before the committee. She stated—

The most common feedback that I receive when talking to victim-survivors ... is that they often feel invisible and dismissed, they feel like they are just another number and when interacting with the system they feel like their matter is not being taken seriously.

Victims of crime in this state can be assured that the Crisafulli LNP government hears them. We see them. They are not just another number to us. We will continue working tirelessly to see improvements in crime numbers and community safety across the board, including pre-emptively dealing with public safety issues like the incidents of injuries and fatalities caused by e-bikes and e-scooters.

I was recently contacted by a Robina resident who does not feel safe in our local community as a result of the way e-bikes are operating, particularly at the hands of young children. She shared that, while driving around our local area, she watched two of these e-bike riders darting in and out of cars and that she is a scared driver when these kids are around. She is not the only one who has raised concerns with me about the dangerous and reckless operation of e-bikes and e-scooters. Whether it is through the personal e-mobility devices inquiry or legislation like this Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill, the Crisafulli LNP government is getting on with the job of delivering a safer, more secure Queensland for all Queenslanders.

When we asked Queenslanders for their support at the 2024 election, we promised to restore law and order after a decade of Labor's neglect, prioritise victims' rights over the rights of juvenile criminals, and restore community safety. This bill is a yet another positive step in the Crisafulli LNP government fulfilling that promise. Accordingly, I commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (8.05 pm): I rise to speak to the bill and, in doing so, support the views put forward so articulately by the shadow minister for youth justice and the shadow attorney-general during this debate. I also endorse the detailed and considered statement of reservation that was submitted as part of the committee report by the Labor opposition. All Queenslanders deserve to be safe and to feel safe. We all in this place subscribe to that, but laws will not do it alone. We need strong early intervention programs. We need to see proper investment. To date, we have not seen any real action by those opposite.

The views of the Queensland opposition have been well articulated by others on this side of the House, including the Leader of the Opposition. It is time for those opposite, those in the LNP government, to act and not to delay. It is time that they support laws to strengthen protection for victims and victim-survivors in Queensland. It is time they supported the implementation of the recommendations made by the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council's report titled *Sentencing of sexual assault and rape: the ripple effect*. This report was raised by the Victims' Commissioner during the committee process and commissioned by the former Labor government.

The Labor opposition has acted in good faith with the government. Over the weekend we flagged in the media that we would progress legislation here to implement recommendations 1, 2, 5 and 23 of the QSAC report. The Labor opposition wrote to the Attorney-General advising that we would be doing this and that we would welcome the support of the government. It is apparent that the government supports the implementation of recommendations 1, 2, 5 and 23, because a day after we wrote to them the Attorney-General introduced a bill into this parliament dealing with those four amendments. The Labor opposition then wrote to the Attorney-General welcoming the government's support to implement the recommendations. We also stated that we would provide bipartisan support for the LNP's Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and offered to enable its passing this week.

If those opposite were genuine they would have accepted this proposal. The bill before the House is about laws to increase penalties for offenders. It is ultimately about protecting victims of crime in Queensland. It is therefore disheartening that the LNP government could not put politics aside and support the motion moved earlier this evening to declare their bill urgent and implement the QSAC amendments this week.

**Mr KRAUSE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I do not see how the member's comments about another bill are relevant to a bill before the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Member for Springwood, make sure that you stay within the long title of this bill, thank you.

**Mr de BRENNI:** As I mentioned, the bill before the House is about laws to increase penalties for offenders. It is about protecting victims. It is supposed to be about reducing the number of victims.

We will give the LNP government one last chance to stand up and protect victims in Queensland this week. We appreciate the work of OQPC in the drafting of legislation to implement recommendations that were discussed by the committee, relevantly 1, 2, 5 and 23 of that QSAC report. We do note that our amendments were drafted without the luxury of a government department behind us. As such, as

the bill introduced by the LNP Attorney-General deals with the exact same matters raised by the Labor opposition—

**Mr KRAUSE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Springwood has continued to reference a report of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council which relates to another bill before the House, not the bill we are debating right now. The point of order is relevance.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Springwood, is this contained within the explanatory notes to the bill or the statement of reservation?

**Mr de BRENNI:** Well, it is relevant—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, is it included in the explanatory notes or the statement of reservation, because if it is—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Yes, it is. Earlier in my remarks I detailed the consideration of the committee and the statement of reservation.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Before you continue, member for Springwood, I will remind you of the Speaker's ruling about the relevance of these matters. Ensure it is contained within the statement of reservation or the explanatory notes.

**Mr de BRENNI:** If it benefits the House, submission 35, the Victims' Commissioner's submission, details the recommendations made by the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council. That assists with providing context in relation to relevance.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Mr de BRENNI:** As such, the bill introduced by the LNP Attorney-General deals with the exact same matters that were addressed by the Labor opposition. We have taken the liberty of drafting amendments to reflect the LNP Attorney-General's amendments in respect of the QSAC report. I table an updated copy of amendments to be moved by the member for Gaven with respect to recommendations 1, 2, 5 and 23 of the QSAC report which will protect and support victims and victim-survivors in Queensland.

*Tabled paper:* Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025, Amendments to be moved by Hon. Meghan Scanlon MP, member for Gaven during consideration in detail.

*Tabled paper:* Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes for amendments to be moved by Hon. Meghan Scanlon MP, member for Gaven during consideration in detail.

*Tabled paper:* Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility for amendments to be moved by Hon. Meghan Scanlon MP, member for Gaven during consideration in detail.

These amendments are the same as the elements of the bill introduced by the Attorney-General—

**Mr KRAUSE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Springwood is anticipating debate on another bill before the House and his comments should be confined to the bill we are debating now.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Springwood, the member for Scenic Rim has a point with regard to you commenting about matters before the House. If you are talking about specifics of the statement of reservation or a submission to this bill, you can refer to that, but do not come to anything that is in another bill that is already on the *Notice Paper*.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am comfortable that I do not contravene rules in relation to anticipation when moving amendments of this nature.

In relation to the amendments, except for one element of those—that is, the commencement provision within our proposed amendments, requiring commencement on assent rather than in November this year—it will be interesting to see if the LNP Crisafulli government will stand by their convictions. It will be interesting to see whether for a moment they will put politics aside and support their own laws. It will be interesting to see if they are really prepared to stand up and support victims and victim-survivors in Queensland.

It has been well articulated that these laws have gone through a QSAC 18-month review and it is time we implemented them without delay. We have a duty in this House. Tonight these amendments have been tabled and will be moved to support victims and victim-survivors. There is no politics. There is no ego. There is no pride on this side of the House. We have even moved near-identical amendments, so there is no excuse not to get this through—no difference and no excuse. The only difference between our amendments and theirs is that ours begin on assent while the LNP's begin in November. That is a

six-month wait. With respect to the number of victims in this state, that represents 2,400 more victims of rape or attempted rape. That is 2,400 too many.

We gave the government a chance during the private member's motion debate tonight to choose victims over politics. We now present the government with another chance. We have taken every single step possible to ensure justice for Queenslanders will not be delayed. We implore those opposite—

**Mr Mickelberg:** Ten years of Labor government that created and presided over this crisis.

**Mr de BRENNI:** I am not taking the interjections, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, the Manager of Opposition Business is not taking interjections.


**Mr de BRENNI:** We have taken every single step possible to ensure justice for Queenslanders will not be delayed.

**Mr Crandon:** Not for the last decade.

**Mr de BRENNI:** I am not taking interjections, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, the member for Springwood is not taking your interjections.

**Mr de BRENNI:** We implore the LNP Crisafulli government to consider and adopt these important amendments.

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (8.16 pm): I rise to speak to the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025. I am proud to speak to this bill because it proves that the Crisafulli government are delivering on our promises when it comes to addressing youth crime in this state. For 10 long years, those opposite refused to listen. In stark contrast, this government established the Expert Legal Panel to advise government on what additional offences should be included. Less than seven months after we delivered Adult Crime, Adult Time, we are following that advice.

Time after time, members on this side of the House spoke up on behalf of victims. I can recollect standing in this chamber, time after time, talking on behalf of victims in North Queensland—from Townsville, a community that has been torn apart by young offenders over the past 10 years. We spoke about the effects on families and businesses. We stood up for Queenslanders whose homes were broken into and had trauma inflicted on their children. Regardless of where the victims lived, their job or their circumstances, we stood up for them because they deserved to be heard, but their pleas for help and for change were ignored.

There is another group that bore the brunt of Labor's failings. That group is our police officers. As youth crime spiralled, the demands on our officers increased accordingly. As Shane Prior, the General President of the Queensland Police Union, told the committee—

... we have seen a significant increase in work for our members, and that has a knock-on effect. The knock-on effect is huge. The frustration levels amongst our membership are significant ...

Quite simply, those opposite failed to provide the resources and the laws that police needed to do their job. It was the officers who were left to deal not only with the frustration felt by victims and entire communities but also with their own frustration. In many cases, their lives were put on the line. While those officers turned up day after day to do their best for their community, those opposite basically abandoned them, with one member famously calling youth crime a 'beat-up' and the police minister pointing the finger of blame at victims. Was it any wonder we saw police officers leaving in droves? But worse was yet to come.


Shane Chelepy, the Acting Police Commissioner, spoke about the effects of youth crime on officer safety, telling the committee that young people were—

... targeting police while they are out trying to keep our communities safe, by either ramming our vehicles or driving directly at our officers and putting our officers at risk.

Make no mistake, it was weakened laws and a lack of consequences for actions that led to police vehicles being rammed across this state. It was those weakened laws that led to an officer right here in Brisbane being pinned to a pole after her police vehicle was rammed. It was the weakening of those laws that resulted in police vehicles under lights and sirens being chased by stolen vehicles in Townsville. This bill means that offenders who damage emergency vehicles and endanger a police officer while operating a motor vehicle will face up to 14 years in jail regardless of their age, as they should.

As we have heard during this debate, the changes already made by this government are leading to decreases in key offending across Queensland. As defence lawyer Phil Rennick told the committee hearing, the original tranche of making offences subject to Adult Crime, Adult Time is making a difference and this bill will make a greater difference. During the time that those opposite were in power, I told victim after victim that addressing Labor's 10 years of failures would take time, and that is still the case. We appreciate and acknowledge that there is more work to be done, but we are making progress on early intervention and rehabilitation as part of our plan to reduce the number of victims of crime.

This bill sends a strong message to offenders that they will be held to account, it sends a strong message to the community that youth crime will be treated seriously, and it sends a strong message to our police that we value them and we will support them. I urge all members of the House to support the bill.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (8.20 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill. I start by echoing the sentiments of the member for Hinchinbrook, when he said that he first came into parliament—and I remember that election—when crime became a big election issue. Before that, as I recall, it was heating up in Mount Isa and there were more and more reports about what was happening in town. Like other members and representatives, there was a bit of trepidation there because we were trying to promote people to come and live in our cities up north—whether it be Mount Isa, Charters Towers, Cloncurry or Townsville—so it was hard at the same time to project how bad it was.

We had meaningful conversations with ministers and the government, but after a while we realised that no-one was listening so we would try to turn up the heat and turn up the dial and say, 'Things have got to be done.' After six or seven years, we were still there and by that stage we were seething in white hot anger. I still recall some well-meaning ministers coming up north and saying, 'We're just not hearing this on the ground. I know you keep saying this but the numbers aren't there and our agencies in town are saying it's not that big a problem and it's a beat-up.' They were perhaps not using the word 'beat-up' but that was the insinuation. You can imagine the frustration from us MPs in North Queensland, where we were saying, 'How on earth can you not be seeing this?'

One of the first policy reactions we saw down here was after a death in Brisbane when someone was run down in traffic. The Premier at the time reacted and said, 'We must act.' That was a bit of a kick in the stomach for us because we had been talking about this for five or six years and suddenly there was a reaction after something happened in Brisbane. There was then a murder here in Brisbane and another policy reaction in parliament, so we were feeling pretty forgotten at this point in North Queensland. We were saying, 'This is not on. We've been saying this for six or seven years and you haven't been listening, but as soon as there's a problem in Brisbane it's a problem.'

By that stage, Mount Isa was at the point where people would come into my office and say that the kids had been bad at the caravan park. They were just stealing things and there were little break and enters but there was not much car stealing. People were saying that the car stealing was the kids in Townsville, but then we started getting car thefts in town and we were thinking, 'Crikey. What's going on? They must be learning from them.' That is quite literally what the police were saying—that they were learning new tricks in Cleveland. We thought, 'That's no good. It doesn't sound like Cleveland is doing any good.' With the changes that were being made, people were saying that we had to keep them in Cleveland for longer but we did not think that was helping.

The member for Hinchinbrook did some research and found there was over 90 per cent recidivism coming out of Cleveland. We said that that did not seem to be working, so perhaps that was an endorsement of what we had been saying for the past five or six years. Ever since that 2017 election, we had been talking about a different form of sentencing because clearly this one was not working. We talked about bush sentencing and relocation sentencing. We still hold the position today that, until that is changed, a lot of this does not have the horsepower to change the trends of these kids.

People talk about reports and consultants, but that is pretty meaningless to us. I think Keith Hamburger is a good reference point to go to, and he gives a very strong endorsement for that same policy we have been pushing for the last eight or nine years. There is some rigour behind that. We used to always hear, 'There's no evidence to support it,' which is a euphemism for, 'Let's never try anything new', but there needs to be investment in it to get some evidence to back it up.

I still think that is rubbish anyway because we see kids going to remote schools like Urandangi and they do not play up when they are there. It is the same when they go out to cattle programs. Frankie Shadforth from the Territory rang me the other day and said, 'Can you send some more kids up here?' I asked how many they could take, and he said, 'We can take a few, but not too bad. We can handle

maybe one bad little fellow.' He is already doing those things up there and we can see the evidence. We know it, but when we come down here we are told that we need experts to counter that. Go up there yourself and look for it. The evidence is there so surely a decision can be made on that, but we get tied up and bogged down with all of these experts. As we have been saying in the KAP, how has that been going listening to the experts for the last 10 years?

Even then, there are flaws in what people say about bush sentencing and relocation sentencing when they say that they cannot be taken too far from their families. There is probably some truth in that in an academic sense, but in a practical sense from being on the ground I do not see how that works. Unfortunately, there are a lot of dysfunctional families in Mount Isa. We have some good social workers and welfare officers doing a good job with some people, but they are dealing with an overwhelming number of kids at the moment and they do not have the resources to keep everything together, to keep that stable at home and to take the kid who has been playing up away for two weeks and then bring them back to the family. That is impractical and you have to be on the ground to know that. We have all of these theories and people coming up with ideas but they are impractical.

There are also trial sentencing programs where they can opt in or where there are bail conditions. What are the bail conditions, because they are not scared of going to Cleveland Bay anyway? Unless they are forced initially into these situations with training and rehabilitation, you are wasting your time. We have been pushing for Adult Crime, Adult Time for years and we agree with it, but it needs to be coupled with some other things on the backend of it to get some teeth. As the member for Hinchinbrook said in his contribution, it needs some teeth and something built on the end of it so there is a consequence for these kids. Otherwise, nothing will change and we are no closer to the solutions.

We are often chastised in this House or even in meetings where we are told there is no evidence for what we are saying. We are just trying to be part of the solution. We have always tried to not just bag whoever is in government about a problem without trying to present some solutions. The go-to line of the major parties is always that minor parties could not possibly come up with anything intelligent or worthwhile that could be adopted by government. We have politely taken that. I pay tribute to the member for Hinchinbrook on this for comprehensively doing up the policy. We took staff out of our busy workloads—and we have a lot of problems in our electorates up there—and they went on policy development and spent a long time on this relocation sentencing, and it is a pretty good document. I am not going to say that we are experts but we did listen to people and the experts out there. Again, we are just hearing about reports and expert panels but that is not for us. If you are doers and decision-makers—which is what the state wants right now—then be leaders and make a decision on this and plough ahead.

You might make some mistakes in the course of doing so, but that is okay; that is what happens. We have to have a crack because this problem is massive. The kids are playing up worse. When you say, 'It is all good, we have had some better numbers this month'—they are still silly enough to say that in Mount Isa sometimes—it just means the bad kids are over in Cleveland for a few months. As soon as they came back, we had four cars stolen at Mount Isa caravan park just a couple of weekends ago. We have the worst stats in Mount Isa, by the way, again. Congratulations! Well done!

The offences are just off the dial. The number of proven offences committed by young people rose from 41,155 in 2023 to 46,000 in 2023-24. Those numbers just do not turn around fast. Until you put some really meaningful consequences in there for the kids, really change what being caught means to them, nothing will change. If that means 12 months minimum sentencing, as we said, lock it in at six to 12 months and couple it with rehabilitation in smaller groups, 10 to 20 kids, out in remote areas where you can start to use them, that is where you are going to get some answers; not tinkering around the edges. Some of this is a good start, but we are still a long way off. We are not seeing changes yet in behaviour because the kids are not feeling the consequences at the end when they get apprehended and sentenced by the magistrates.

These numbers are just horrible. For Mount Isa, 10 in every 1,000 people have a car stolen each year on those numbers. Like I said, four cars taken from the caravan park. We should not have to put up with that. It is imposing a great cost, not just financially, but socially, especially in these remote areas where it is already hard to get people to live. You must change and take some leadership on this issue. We will be supporting this bill—of course, we would—but it does not go far enough.



**Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (8.31 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill. I want to thank the minister for her work on this legislation. She has a great depth of experience, being a former prosecutor. All Queenslanders



deserve to feel safe in their own home, as do the people of my electorate of Warrego. They are no different; they, too, wish to feel safe in their homes.

We should cast our minds back to what happened, starting 10 years ago, under the previous Labor governments. In 2015-16, the Labor government weakened the youth justice laws. Through a series of amendments, Labor made detention a last resort in sentencing, preferring that offenders be left in the community. If you look at the objectives of that legislation, you can see that quite clearly. Labor also abolished breach of bail as an offence and prioritised the rights of offenders over the rights of victims.


We all know what happened as a result of the last 10 years. Queensland ended up with a generation who knew no consequences for actions. Labor's weak laws left a legacy of a youth crime crisis, a crisis that has left families grieving for their deceased loved ones, and one of those family members is in this chamber. Repeat youth offenders avoided justice, holding Queenslanders and their communities to hostage.

Last October, Queenslanders made their voices heard, demanding action on crime. The Making Queensland Safer laws are a foundation of the Crisafulli government's justice agenda. A key part of this is our commitment to Adult Crime, Adult Time, making youth offenders committing serious adult crimes liable for the same penalties. We delivered our first tranche of these laws before Christmas, just like we said we would. We are now delivering the next tranche of these laws, including an additional 20 offences. Introducing these additional offences means we can take another step towards restoring community safety for Queenslanders.

I would like to share something that gets to the very heart of this bill. In my electorate of Warrego, I know too many victims of the youth crime crisis. One that stays in my mind involves a grandmother who suffered so much stress from a violent break and enter in her home, that it seriously exacerbated her heart condition. Youth offenders broke into this grandmother's home under the cover of darkness, stole from her, trashed her property, doing all this while armed with machetes and threatening to kill her; doing this knowing that they would get away with these crimes under Labor's weak laws and under Labor's youth crime crisis. This grandmother has not recovered from the ordeal, nor has her family who love her dearly. They suffer almost daily from what happened on that evening.

It is a story I have heard too many times now, but those youths, despite being sentenced for an array of crimes, walked free under Labor's laws. That is what Labor's youth crime crisis has done to innocent families in my electorate.

The members on the other side of this House are still coming to grips with the mandate that Queenslanders entrusted to the LNP Crisafulli government—a mandate to make Queensland safer. We in the LNP will restore safety to where we live, and we will do what we said we would.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (8.34 pm): I rise to speak on the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill. It only has been about six months since the initial Making Queensland Safer Bill, yet here we are again thanks to the LNP who rushed through the first bill without proper scrutiny. Stakeholders were given two days to review the first bill and there were only six hours of hearings. What could possibly go wrong? The legal experts warned there would be unintended consequences, and unfortunately there were. A month after the new laws were introduced, a young teenager horrifically stabbed a Coles worker at Yamanto Central Shopping Centre. We then found out that the new Making Queensland Safer laws did not even cover this crime of attempted murder. This was just one of the consequences of rushing through the first bill. At the time, the Premier scrambled to fix it by saying he had put together an expert panel to do further changes. We will never really know the advice that the Expert Legal Panel gave to the government because the government has not released it.

In submission after submission to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, there were calls to publically release the advice given by the government's Expert Legal Panel. This bill adds 20 new offences to which the Adult Crime, Adult Time penalties apply. We do not even know the advice that the government relied upon to add these 20 new offences. Queenslanders have a right to know how the government created these new laws. A number of stakeholders who made submissions to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee called for this advice to be publicly released.

The opposition is not standing in the way of these new laws, but we will condemn the government for its secrecy. The Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support claimed earlier this week that they cannot release the Expert Legal Panel's advice because the panel has not finished their work yet. She said the panel's advice was ongoing, it was oral, it was written, they have done numerous consultations with stakeholders and they are not finished. It is not good enough. It is not a good enough reason for

not releasing the advice. Why can't we see at least the written advice the expert panel has provided to the government so far in relation to this bill?

The fact that we are standing here today debating the second round of the Making Queensland Safer laws is an admission that the LNP government bungled their first go. You would think the second version of the bill would give the LNP government a chance to finally get this bill right, but there are still shortcomings. For example, they have omitted to build a review mechanism into this bill. It was also omitted from the 2024 bill. Several submitters to the committee raised the need for an independent evaluation of the effectiveness and consequences of the bill. The Queensland Law Society recommended the inclusion of a statutory review provision in this bill to consider both the short- and long-term impacts of the expansion of the Adult Crime, Adult Time sentencing regime on the youth justice system and the community as a whole. These laws are too important to not be reviewed on a regular basis. That is why I support the opposition's motion to mandate an independent review within 18 months of commencement with the review to be made public.

The opposition will hold the Premier to account on his promise that he would make Queenslanders safe. He made this promise at the last state election and he promised to resign if victim numbers did not fall. He even said in the bill's introductory speech that these laws are to ultimately reduce the number of victims because that is what this is all about. The opposition will hold the Premier to that promise by proposing victim data and offence data be published on a regular basis and be consistent.

Support for victims is crucial. Crime can impact a person's physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. When Labor was in government, we were committed to enhancing victim support services. We established the Victims' Commissioner. We changed legislation to provide faster access to payments for victims of crime. We made changes to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, requiring the council appoint a member who was a victim of crime. We increased maximum financial assistance for victims from \$75,000 up to \$120,000.


The LNP claims to put victims first. Their whole election strategy focused on making Queenslanders safe from crime. They even boasted that they would fix crime by Christmas last year, yet they have ignored sentencing recommendations made by the independent Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council which would improve victim support. Those recommendations from QSAC's report, *Sentencing of sexual assault and rape: the ripple effect* included: recognising harm to victim-survivors in sentencing; treating rape against children as an aggravating factor; restricting the use of good character evidence in sentencing; and preventing courts drawing inference from the lack of an impact statement. The opposition has proposed these recommendations be adopted as amendments to the bill. This is an opportunity. These amendments go directly to the principles of the bill and address submission 35 from the Queensland Victims' Commissioner where they recommend that the bill include an amendment to section 9(1) of the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to provide that the purpose of sentencing in Queensland includes recognition of victim harm.

If the LNP were serious about supporting victims they would heed the Victims' Commissioner's recommendations and add these changes to the bill. The LNP government has introduced the Making Queensland Safer Laws without any thought to the increased demand this may put on youth detention centres and watch houses, not to mention the impact this will have on correction workers and police. The Queensland Police Union in their submission flagged the potential for increased or sustained detention capacity issues at Queensland Police Service watch houses. The Australian Workers' Union also added in their submission that an influx of youth offenders entering an at-capacity youth detention system may shift violent crime off the streets and into their members' workplaces without the necessary staffing or infrastructure to accommodate it. The newly-opened Wacol Youth Remand Centre—a Labor government project—will help accommodate some of the growth in detained youth offenders but not much. What is happening with the new Cairns and Woodford youth remand facilities? The LNP cannot just make new laws that will potentially increase the numbers of youth offenders without also investing in new infrastructure, planning and modelling.

The LNP government has failed to invest and deliver in their early intervention programs. They spruiked their Gold Standard Early Intervention programs throughout the election but seven months later, only two small programs in Townsville and Rockhampton have been funded with an investment worth only a few hundred thousand dollars. Where are all the other programs the LNP campaigned on during the election? Investment in early intervention is crucial to breaking the cycle of youth offending. I hear it from everybody I talk to in my area, yet several committee submitters were concerned the government was more focused on harsher punitive sentencing than investing in early intervention. The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak said in their submission that in

the absence of adequate investment in the social, emotional and cultural wellbeing of children and their families, harsher sentencing will continue to address the symptoms of offending, rather than the underlying causes.

The LNP's second go at the Making Queensland Safer Laws have fallen short again. They have delivered this bill based on secret advice from an Expert Legal Panel. It lacks the crucial victim support policies recommended by QSAC. It disregards the bill's impacts on detention infrastructure capacity and frontline workers. The opposition understands that strong laws are needed to protect community safety but these laws must be evidence-based and properly considered. The shadow attorney-general will be putting amendments to this bill—sensible amendments that I will be supporting. I urge all members in this House to do the same.

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (8.43 pm): I rise to speak on the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill but this bill could be called 'doing what we said we were going to do'. I want to take up a point from the honourable member who is somehow saying that this second wave of amendments was not planned. We spoke about it before the election; we gave the timeline for it.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI**: I will take the interjection from the member for McConnell because the member for McConnell is often overreaching and says things that turn out to be false. I will say to the honourable member for McConnell: we promised there would be changes by Christmas and they were delivered; we said we would set up the panel and we did; and we said we would bring the next wave of changes as we have. To pre-empt the next time we are debating the next wave of changes and the opposition is tearing themselves apart for a third time—there will be more. I know that is uncomfortable, and I will explain why, but there will be more.

At the heart of this, and the reason we have to do this is, is we have to reverse 10 years of one-way traffic where laws were weakened and those opposite crowed about it. They boasted about weakening those laws and on the back of it, it created the crisis we are living today. So there will be further changes. I make that commitment to Queenslanders because it is about victims. Today, I stood with brave victims again and I said to those victims that we will continue to drive down youth crime. I think of the thousands of victims who I have spoken to that have not been able to tell their story because they have been so traumatised, and there are many in that camp. I think of a couple of residents, in particular, who I represent in my electorate, one in Paradise Point and another in Hope Island. I remember speaking to them about their story and what it had done to their family. I commit to them—not just the constituents in my electorate of Broadwater but to every person in Queensland—we will do better for you because for 10 years you have not been listened to.


This bill is about change and it is change for them. It introduces another 20 charges for Adult Crime, Adult Time. I say to those opposite: it reverses a decade of decline. Everything is about fewer victims. I have listened to some of the contributions. I have listened intently and you know their heart is not in it. You can see it by the way their heads are down. You can feel it in the way that they talk. You know that the only reason they are voting for this is because they could not go back to their electorate and say that they didn't—that is the only reason. They know it, but in their heart they just do not want to do it because they still believe that the only way to deal with youth crime is to cuddle children. That is one part of it. Compassion is an important part but you also need consequences. They do not understand—you must have both.

I say to those opposite: with or without you, with or without the young crims, we are going to pass these laws.—

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Lytton, your gesticulations are not being taken.

**Mr CRISAFULLI**: We have had to sit late into the night this week but that is how important this is to Queenslanders. As I have listened to Queenslanders, I have heard their response. They say: 'Keep going, keep making the changes, keep doing what you said you were going to do.' This state is in the grip of a youth crime crisis. This state has had 10 years of weaker laws, 10 years of rising crime and we are committed through stronger laws, more police, early intervention and understanding that we will own the issue as those opposite were not prepared to do. This is important to us. We do acknowledge it, and every day we will deal with fixing Labor's youth crime crisis.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (8.48 pm): The priority of a state

government should, first and foremost, be the safety of its citizens and I want to endorse everything the honourable the Premier just said. I have seen the debate over the last 48 hours—the disgraceful attempt by the Labor Party to try and rewrite history. They talked about all the things they did in government.

When they did do things it was just before an election after nearly 10 years in office and there was no apology from any Labor member for weakening the youth justice laws in 2015. The very first bill the Labor Party introduced when they won office in 2015 got rid of many of the youth justice laws that had been put in place by the previous government. That was their priority. I am proud to be in the Crisafulli government because one of the very first pieces of legislation we put into parliament strengthened the youth justice laws, putting victims before offenders, making consequences for actions and putting in place rehabilitation programs and early intervention programs. That is because we recognise it is not just about consequences for actions.

**Ms Bush:** Where are they? Where are they?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I hear the member opposite say, 'Where are they?' Where were they for 10 years under the Labor government? We have done more to strengthen—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order, members.

**Ms Bush** interjected.

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I said, 'Order, members,' and member for Cooper, you kept interjecting. You are warned under the standing orders. Member for Lytton, you are lucky not to be on a warning but I caution you.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I understand the internal anxiety felt by those members, particularly the member who was just interjecting, because in their heart of hearts they do not support these strong laws but for political purposes they will vote for them. Tonight I have heard them all saying, 'Release the report. Release this. Release that.' This debate is about the bill before the House. Read the bill. The bill is the law. That is what we are debating. That is the debate before the parliament. In a grown-up way they should read it, understand it and vote on it.

**Mr Whiting:** Show us the advice. Where is the advice?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** It is nothing but an excuse like having a shiny bauble with this over here or that over there. Here is the fact, 'Three-Piece Bancroft': Labor weakened the laws. Labor weakened the laws for 10 years and now we are introducing consequences for actions. After these laws pass we will have over 30 offences for Adult Crime, Adult Time. I am, as everyone else is, a local member of parliament representing my constituency, the Kawana constituency. Every single week we would see on our community social media posts people frightened in their communities, young thugs terrorising communities and young thugs stealing cars. I saw yesterday in my own electorate a video of a P-plater who swerved and nearly hit a police officer on Nicklin Way, Bokarina. That is what is happening in our communities. That is why this government is taking strong action.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members on my left. Member for McConnel, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I stood in this place when the member for McConnel would accuse the former opposition both in here and outside the chamber. Do honourable members know what she used to say? 'You're just making up stories,' when we filled the gallery with victims who had told their stories.

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. He is really struggling now. He is making it up and misleading the House. I take offence and I ask that he withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will deal with the point of order first. Member for Kawana, the member for McConnel has taken personal offence. I ask that you withdraw.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for McConnel, you were on a warning. That point of order you have made included comments which were superfluous to making the point of order. You are a very experienced member. You know that you should not be making those sorts of comments when taking

a point of order. Given that you were on a warning I am going to ask you to leave the chamber for one hour under the standing orders.


*Whereupon the honourable member for McConnel withdrew from the chamber at 8.53 pm.*

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The Labor Party are divided on youth justice laws; they cannot bring themselves to work out what they want to do. In their heart of hearts we know they are soft on crime. At the heart of the Labor Party they are soft on crime and honourable members do not have to listen to me to know that; they can just look at their record for 10 years. They did everything they could over 10 years to weaken the youth justice laws, therefore creating a generation of repeat young offenders in every corner of the state. It was not only in the epicentre in Far North Queensland and North Queensland but on the Sunshine Coast, Brisbane, Western Queensland—everywhere across Queensland.

**Ms Bates:** Gold Coast.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Also on the Gold Coast; I take the interjection from the honourable member. The Premier and I are proud of our team. We are proud of not only our team who brought the laws to fruition today, the second tranche of the Making Queensland Safer Laws, but also our team across the state for bringing victims' voices to this parliament—victims' voices that had been left behind because of the Labor Party. It is the Crisafulli government that is listening to those victims' voices and acting on those victims' voices. I hope we continue to see the green shoots of recovery in the law and order space because of these new laws.

I also heard the Labor Party making this accusation that everything was going to be fixed before Christmas. The new government was going to be elected in October and everything was going to be magic before December. We said we would introduce the first tranche of the Making Queensland Safer Laws by Christmas and we did it. We did exactly what we said we were going to do. Then we said we would have a second tranche; and, as the honourable Premier said, if it means we have to have a third tranche to continue to arrest the youth justice crisis in Queensland, we will because the LNP will always put victims ahead of offenders.

 **Dr O'SHEA** (South Brisbane—ALP) (8.55 pm): I rise today to address the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025. Having spent many years working in emergency medicine, I have witnessed firsthand the devastating impact of violent crime on individuals and families, and I believe that every member of this House shares a commitment to building safer communities across Queensland. Everyone has the right to feel safe in their home and when out and about in their community.

Residents in my electorate of South Brisbane are concerned about rising crime rates in our community, with break and enter, car theft and stealing from shops affecting our residents and business owners. I would like to acknowledge our local police at West End, South Bank and Dutton Park police stations and their hard work in keeping our community safe in their rapid response to acute incidents as well as crime prevention through increased patrols and the presence of the mobile police beats at different locations in our electorates. I also thank them for engaging with our community through our recent Coffee with a Cop morning.

I believe that youth offending is one of the most serious and complex challenges we face as a state, and that demands a serious, sustained and credible response. Early intervention programs are essential as well as effective rehabilitation including education for these children and young people. With increasing numbers of children and young people being detained, it is essential there are sufficient places in youth detention centres to ensure meaningful rehabilitation programs can be run as well as to guarantee the safety of detention centre staff. The Australian Workers' Union stated in their submission—

Queensland's Youth Detention Centres are running at constant capacity. Our members do not currently have the staffing resources to safely run these facilities day-to-day, let alone provide consistent access to education or meaningful rehabilitation programs.

With this Bill set to increase the number of young people in the system carrying longer sentences, we foresee a surge in detainees entering a system that is already stretched to its limits. This raises a series of concerns about how the Queensland Government plans to accommodate this influx.

The Queensland Police Union, the QPU, also raised concerns about the availability of sufficient places in youth detention centres to ensure that children and young people do not end up being held in watch houses, stating in its submission—

... the QPU again flags the potential for increased or sustained detention capacity issues at Queensland Police Service (QPS) watchhouses. Young offenders remanded in custody or sentenced to a period of detention are held in QPS watchhouses until

there is availability in a detention centre. Youth detention centres are continually over capacity and young offenders are often held in QPS watchhouses for lengthy periods.


There is universal agreement that police watchhouses are not suitable for the extended detention of young people. Police watchhouses are unable to provide the level of care and support that is present in a youth detention centre.

As a doctor working in drug dependency, I treated a number of patients while they were held in watch houses and they are definitely no places for children. With it taking up to four years for a youth detention centre to be built, I would urge the government to plan now to ensure there is adequate capacity.

We should acknowledge that rushing through legislation to address complex social issues rarely produces sustainable outcomes. The bill before us significantly expands the list of offences for which young people will face adult penalties, applying the same maximum and mandatory sentences as an adult would receive under the Criminal Code. Such a substantial legislative change demands scrutiny.

We are informed that an expert legal panel provided advice which underpins the proposed reforms. However, neither parliament, relevant stakeholders nor the broader Queensland community has had the opportunity to review this advice. This is at odds with what Queenslanders expect and deserve—laws developed with transparency, through thorough and careful deliberation and on the basis of sound evidence. I may be very new to this parliament; however, I cannot understand why the government would not make this advice public. I respectfully call upon the government to table the expert panel's advice without further delay.

Finally, I firmly believe that effectively addressing youth offending requires more than legislation focused solely on punitive measures. We must also confront the underlying issues that fuel criminal behaviour—issues such as housing instability, addiction, untreated mental illness and rough sleeping. In my electorate of South Brisbane and across Queensland too many people are falling through the cracks of our overstretched housing and support systems, ending up at risk of exploitation, substance abuse and violence, perpetuating cycles of crime and victimisation. Any credible strategy for improving community safety must include meaningful investment in addressing these foundational issues, as only by intervening early and addressing these root causes through evidence-based legislation and policy can we achieve the high levels of community safety that Queenslanders rightly expect and deserve.

 **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) (9.02 pm): I am pleased to rise to speak on the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill and want to thank my colleague the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support for the very serious responsibility that she has taken in crafting these laws and following the commitment that the Premier, David Crisafulli, and his government said that we would fulfil. This is the next tranche of laws to ensure that we get it right in respect of addressing Labor's decade of failure.

We must remember that victims also have human rights. Labor's decade of failure is the reason for Queensland's youth crime crisis—a crisis that the Labor Party denied was happening and about which it is still in denial that the laws that it weakened, its undermining of the Police Service and the lack of consequences for action has created the crisis that we now have to address with these laws. We are bringing in tougher laws, we are bringing in support for police and, importantly, we are bringing in early intervention programs which are rolling out under that \$100 million commitment that was made during the election and will continue to roll out because it is about consequences for actions but also about earlier intervention.

Tonight I have heard everything listening to members of the Labor Party and their denial about the mess that they created and the victims who are now either damaged for life or who sadly have lost their lives due to the ineptitude of the former Labor government that did not get it and now in opposition will not take responsibility. Those opposite had 10 years to implement early intervention strategies to protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, for example, and to help steer young Indigenous children away from crime and non-Indigenous children away from crime and they effectively did nothing to do that. They failed both victims and children—children who should have had a life of potential to fulfil the opportunities that were ahead of them but instead committed crimes, went through damage themselves and are now caught within this cycle.

Labor had 10 years to address not only legislation but also the intervention issue, and I want to address some very important figures because one would think that those opposite would have learnt something. I quote the former minister for child safety Shannon Fentiman, the member for Waterford, when she said on 3 June 2015—

The Palaszczuk government is committed to making sure that Queensland's children get the best possible start in life and to support their families so this can happen. Working in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to do this is particularly important, as we are determined to reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in our child protection system.

What happened? Did those opposite reduce it? They were weakening the youth justice laws, but tonight we have heard them trying to defend their actions. Did that in fact happen under the former minister for child safety? Did we see a reduction in the number of Indigenous children—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children—who were represented in the child protection system? I can inform the House that, no, they did not.

Under the Closing the Gap agreement, there was supposed to be tracking towards a reduction in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system. What happened? It got worse. In fact, between 2019 and 2023 it got 25.7 per cent worse. This was under Labor. Brilliant, isn't it? Children have been lost to a life of opportunity into the child protection system.

Let me come to the next figures where those opposite failed more children, as we have seen. In 2016 the member for Algester put on the public record her concern about the continual over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth in the justice system and vowed that the Labor government—

... would reduce the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people—who find themselves in the youth justice system and providing the support they need to turn their lives around and positively contribute to their communities

What happened? Was there a reduction? Once again at the time those opposite were changing the laws and weakening them with regard to the youth justice system. The member for Algester said that they wanted to reduce the number—and I am sure that she intended for that to be the case—but what do the Closing the Gap indicators that were signed off on by the previous government, which wanted to see improvements, show? What actually happened with regard to the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children? The situation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people became 11 per cent worse in that period of time. It got worse—not better but worse.

We have to call it out because it directly correlates with the former Labor government saying they were going to change things to make it better, but it got worse not only for those caught in a life of crime but also for victims. We must address this issue of the victims. We must acknowledge that there is an overrepresentation of victims and perpetrators who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. It is disturbing. They are 3.5 times more likely to have been the victims of sexual assault compared to non-Indigenous Australians. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls are 2.5 times more likely to have been victims of rape than non-Indigenous women and girls. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and boys are 4.5 times more likely to have been victims of rape than non-Indigenous men and boys. These victims deserve to have their voices heard as well. They deserve to be safe and to feel safe in their homes and in their communities wherever they live in Queensland.

I quote from this week's *Australian* where Noel Pearson said—

The near decade of Queensland Labor's inaction to tackle the state's ailing child protection system has proven a 'disaster' for children in state care.

That was in response to the announcement by the Crisafulli government and Minister Camm with regard to the Commission of Inquiry into the Child Safety System.

Too many children have been failed and it is time to hear all the voices. What we have seen so far is 10 years of failure—more children in care and more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care. Noel Pearson went on to say—

This 10 years of the Palaszczuk government has been an absolute disaster for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, absolute disaster


Ten years of wasted lives, children in droves in the child protection system who then go on to be in their droves in the youth justice system, who then go on to be in their droves in the adult incarceration system. All we've seen is a rise in those numbers, no turnaround, no slowing down of the numbers. Now we're reaping the bitter reward, the bitter legacy of this long resistance to reform agenda.

In a letter last June he said—

This statistical scorecard shows the disadvantage gap for Indigenous Queenslanders did not close but became further entrenched during the Palaszczuk era from 2015 to 2023.

Still Labor has not learned. We must hear all the voices. We must ensure that the voices of victims are heard and that there is reform.

That is why we have announced the Commission of Inquiry into the Child Safety System. That is why we have these laws before the House continuing to reform the youth justice system. That is why there are Gold Standard Early Intervention programs that are being rolled out in consultation with the community and which will be evidence based to bring about the reform that Labor still refuses to grasp.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (9.13 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025. I have mentioned before in this House that when it comes to community safety we are all on the same page. We all want a safer community. We all want fewer victims and, to be honest, the expectation of the people of Queensland when it comes to the conduct of members in this House is that we are all on the same page. I would not normally reflect on the contributions of other members and the way that they have made those contributions, but there have been a number of members, including the Premier and Deputy Premier, who have reflected on how members in this House may or may not have made their contributions. They have reflected on how they may have presented themselves when they have made their contributions. He who is without sin should cast the first stone. I note that the Premier only spoke for five minutes on this bill. He made remarks about whether members of this House have their heart in this issue. The Premier could not even speak for 10 minutes. The Deputy Premier made similar remarks. He could not even speak for 10 minutes. He only spoke for six minutes. You cannot come into this House and reflect on how members make their contributions on these topics, you cannot say that you are more precious on this issue than others, but then conduct yourself in a way where you only speak for five minutes. Who has their heart in this, I wonder.

The Leader of the Opposition and, in fact, all members of the opposition, have made it clear that the opposition will not get in the way of fixing these botched laws. It is disappointing that this was not incorporated in the first amendment bill in December. We hear from those opposite that the intent behind these laws is to deter crime. If these offences had been included in the bill in December how much crime would have been deterred between December and now? How many victims would have been saved from the deterrence that those opposite say is represented by the intent behind these laws?

I am concerned that before the election we heard that these laws were well considered, they were, in fact, drafted—I think the Premier said he had drafted them—yet we saw after these laws were brought into the House for the first time in December that there was an oversight. We warned that these rushed laws were not fully thought through and would have unforeseen consequences. After that was identified we suddenly hear that that was only the first tranche and now this is the second tranche. Now I hear from some members that there may be more tranches to come. If we are fair dinkum about the intent behind these laws, why is the government not acting on all of them at once? If the intent behind these laws is to have a deterrent to prevent people from committing these crimes in the first place, why are they not putting all those laws in at one point?

It is concerning that this strategy from the government is about the extra tranches—the more to come. It just shows that these laws were not well considered by the Premier first up, they do need to be continually scrutinised and that there needs to be proper process around it. That proper process includes the Expert Legal Panel advice. That proper process includes ensuring that legislators, the people of Queensland and stakeholders are aware of the expert advice. What are the experts recommending? What are the recommendations that the government is accepting or not accepting? I am concerned that I heard from the minister during her contribution that the expert panel is still making recommendations. It is still providing advice. Their work is not finished. What if their advice is that this list of offences is not right? What if their advice is that this list of offences is not broad enough or is too narrow? I am concerned about that approach. Us as legislators, the people of Queensland, the community more broadly and stakeholder groups need to be aware of the advice so that we can have considered positions.

The opposition has circulated a number of amendments to the bill before the House. I want to speak to those to ensure that these laws are as good as they can be and to ensure that the frameworks that we have do not only support transparency and accountability but also put victims and victim-survivors first.

It is important for the community and also for legislators to be apprised of the data that flows as a result of legislative changes. I do not know why they are opposing more reporting of data. I do not know what the problem with that is. If the laws are successful then the data will show that. If the laws need to be further amended then the data will show that. If the laws are not working then the data will show that. I do not know why you would be opposed to the amendment that the opposition has put forward about monthly victim data reporting because that would support the contention of those opposite that these laws do deter crime and that they are effective.




I also do not know why you would oppose the opposition amendment around an independent review. What is to be feared from having experts analyse the laws and their effectiveness? As has been well ventilated by members of the opposition, why won't the Expert Legal Panel advice be provided? If that advice supports the list of offences that have been included in this amendment bill then that is surely something that the government would say the experts have recommended. If, for whatever reason, that advice does not support the list that has been put forward then it is proper for this parliament to scrutinise the decision-making of the government in including the offences and why they may or may not have taken the advice of the Expert Legal Panel.

Finally, I want to talk about some very important amendments that have been circulated not only by the member for Gaven but also by the member for Springwood around QSAC's *Sentencing of sexual assault and rape: the ripple effect* recommendations. They are very important recommendations and it is important that they be brought in as a matter of priority. This flows from a very well-considered process. In December, they provided the report to government. They provided very considered recommendations. This is about supporting victim-survivors. It is about ensuring that under our system justice is not only done but is also seen to be done and, of course, supporting victims through the justice process by limiting the ongoing trauma and harm that may flow from good character evidence being provided in sentencing.

I will come back to the first point I made: when it comes to community safety, we are all on the same page. The people of Queensland expect us to be on the same page when it comes to this issue. We want to make sure that the laws are as good as they can be. The government needs to be open and transparent about the information, the advice and the expert contribution that has been provided for these laws. The opposition has always sought expert input and we have always accepted it. We have always relied on it. If the experts recommend these offences, show us and we will accept their recommendations and we will accept their advice. However, what is questionable is why you would keep it secret. If they have not recommended it then tell us and tell us the reasons why; if they have, we will accept it. As I said at the beginning, the opposition will not get in the way of these laws. We all want a safer community and fewer victims.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Before I call the member for Buderim and Minister for Transport and Main Roads, there is too much chat in the chamber, members. It has been very noisy. Keep it down, please. I did not want to interrupt the member for Morayfield.

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.22 pm): I rise to address the legislation for our latest tranche of the Making Queensland Safer laws. Before I get to the substance of the bill, I want to reflect on the nature of the contributions from those opposite over the past two days. I have not seen a more duplicitous and self-serving position on this issue. Many of those opposite do not support this legislation but they do not have the courage to admit that to Queenslanders. When those opposite were in government, they presided over a progressive weakening of exactly these types of laws and that created this problem, but they will not face up to Queenslanders and admit that that is the case. We see them come in here and mount these spurious arguments, citing transparency and saying that we need greater consideration and review periods. Those opposite had an opportunity to fix this problem and they made it worse. Labor made the youth crime crisis worse. Every single time they weakened the laws, more Queenslanders suffered.

One of the main reasons that the Crisafulli government was elected in October was to fix Labor's mess. I note that many members opposite have had to get on the Dutch courage tonight in order to come in here and state their case because they are so lacking in courage—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Buderim, I ask you to withdraw that comment.

**Mr MICKELBERG**: I withdraw that comment, which was not directed at an individual but a collective. They are so lacking in the courage of their convictions that they will not come in here and admit that they do not support this legislation.

We will continue to bring in any legislation that is required to make Queenslanders safer. Our commitment to strengthen laws and put victims first has been met with overwhelming support. Fixing Labor's youth crime crisis is no easy task but we are making progress to ensure that families can feel safe and secure in their own homes and in their communities. That is every Queenslanders' right. We will continue to strengthen the laws for as long as it takes for safety to be restored and for victims to be protected. I welcome and support the Expert Legal Panel's recommendation to expand the total number of offences in our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws to 33. If young offenders are committing heinous crimes such as rape, attempted murder and torture then they must be dealt with in a way that meets the


community's expectations. Unlike those on the other side, we will not tolerate those crimes here in Queensland.

My community on the Sunshine Coast has not been immune to Labor's youth crime crisis, which has long been one of the biggest issues raised with me by my constituents. I hear from families in Sippy Downs, Palmview and Mountain Creek who have been terrorised by youth offenders. Residents tell me that often it is the same teenage thugs time and time again. They are known to police and, sadly, they are very much known to our communities.

I remember the Buderim grandparents who were accosted by three young teenagers armed with knives. I have raised this in the chamber before because it sticks with me although not nearly as much as it sticks with Mr and Mrs Taylor. They were the victims of a violent home invasion. In that instance, fortunately no-one was seriously harmed because the couple bravely fended them off. Good police work resulted in the young offenders being pinched and initially held to account for their actions before being released on bail the next day and then, after a substandard court process, they were released with a slap on the wrist. That does not reflect the community's expectations. That terrifying incident and the response that followed sums up all of the chaos and crisis under Labor. That was not just a story in the media. Those victims are real people with real scars. The Crisafulli government will always put victims first.

Under the former government, aside from Labor's weakened laws, in my community one of the biggest issues with crime was the lack of police resources. We made a commitment to put more police boots on the ground and that is exactly what we have done. The Crisafulli government has boosted the number of Queensland Police Service front-line officers by 240 in just 200 days. I commend the Minister for Police. There is plenty more work to be done but it is a start in fixing Labor's decade of failure. We are giving the Queensland Police Service the resources they need to tackle crime and we are backing up their hard work with the right laws so the courts can hold young offenders to account for their actions.

The crime statistics show that we are making a difference. This is only the early stages but we are making Queensland safer. There has been a 15.5 per cent reduction in robberies, an 8.5 per cent drop in stolen cars and unlawful entry offences are down by 11½ per cent. Young criminals are finally starting to face consequences for their actions. For a decade they were left to their own devices and they ran rampant through our communities, terrorising streets, homes and businesses, but we will not stand for it. We have backed up our laws with intensive rehabilitation and intervention programs to give young offenders the best chance to turn their lives around, should they wish to take the opportunity. However, we will always put the rights of victims first. We know that there is a long way to go but we will not waver in our pursuit of a safer Queensland.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (9.29 pm): It has been a privilege to listen to the debate in the House over the last two days, and I commend the minister on the bill before the House. I am a proud Queenslander. I am proud to live in the state of Queensland and listen to Queenslanders talk about the plight they face in terms of the youth crime crisis. After listening to the debate, though, I realise why those opposite cannot represent the state of Queensland: they are living in a state of denial. Those opposite could get a gold medal for denial.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr McDONALD:** I will take the interjection—gold, silver and bronze for denial. Those opposite were responsible for weakening the laws in 2015. They weakened the laws, which they now deny. They played around the edges with things that fortunately many in this House know about. Five of my colleagues and I are proud to have been police officers in this state and served this state. We understand the youth justice system from a police perspective. I must say that I was very proud when the now Premier, who was the opposition leader at the time, asked me, the member for Currumbin and the member for Ninderry to be representatives on the youth justice reform taskforce and to travel the state to listen to people about the crimes that were being committed and to listen to victims.

I recognise Trudy Reading and the Atkinsons here today. It is wonderful to reacquaint myself with them. They have made a wonderful commitment to the Voice for Victims. I recognise my colleague the member for Capalaba and the terrible tragedy that has driven him and motivated him quite wholesomely to be a member of this House. Once again, I congratulate him.

I was pleased to be on that youth justice taskforce and get a better understanding of the youth justice system. The youth justice system is a suite of approaches that starts with early intervention. I will challenge the House and say that, on the youth justice system continuum, the first part is family. Family is very important right at the start of bringing up children.

I recognise the Minister for Education and the wonderful work that our teachers do because I think the next suite of that youth justice system is actually education and our schools and the role they play in developing our children and teaching them about consequences for action, which may put them on the right track. If the family and the school are not able to get those kids on the straight and narrow, they will come to the attention of police. As I have said many times in this House, and as has been reinforced by many on the government's side, the police deal with about 150,000-odd kids a year. A couple of years ago, up to 91 per cent of those who were dealt with by police never offended again or came to the attention of police again. That figure is around 90 per cent now. The remaining nine per cent represents about 12½ thousand kids, and they are in the system. They might only offend once or twice more but many continue to reoffend. Then there are about 4½ thousand who are further in the youth justice system and some of them have been incarcerated.

Those opposite come in here and say, 'Adult Crime, Adult Time won't work. It's not the solution. You can't arrest or incarcerate your way out.' We are not doing that. Ninety-one per cent of the kids out there who have committed offences will never offend again. We are getting to the pointy end. We are getting to those youth offenders. A Queensland barrister in the Childrens Court said to the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee that about 600 of them are very vulnerable and have so many complex issues that they need to be confined for their own safety and for the safety of the community.

That is why I am very proud to be part of the Crisafulli government and doing what we said we would do. This bill is about the additional suite of changes to Adult Crime, Adult Time. We went to the election saying, 'We will introduce Adult Crime, Adult Time,' and we did. It was our first order of business. We did not procrastinate. We said what we were going to do and include in that suite of offences, and we did it. We also said that we would put in place an expert legal panel to consider other changes. Tick!

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr McDONALD:** I will take those interjections from my colleagues. We did it. Now we are delivering those additional 20 offences as part of this bill. We are delivering for Queenslanders and making sure that our focus is on people, not on politics, not on grandstanding and not on shutting down the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee, which those opposite, when in government, did because they could not bear listening to any more victims. We are listening to the victims and putting in place changes for Queenslanders across the breadth of this state.

Many of my colleagues are here because of the youth crime crisis and because of the way they listened to their community and stood up for their community. I am proud to call them colleagues but they are true community champions where they live because they care about their community and they represent their community well. I am sure that they will have a long time in this House because the Crisafulli government will continue to do what we said we would do.

We will make sure that that continues and we will drive down the number of offenders. We will incarcerate them when they need to be incarcerated, and we will make sure that there is early intervention. Those opposite chuckle about the term 'Gold Standard Early Intervention'. I asked a professor who was giving evidence to our Youth Justice Reform Select Committee, 'What is gold standard?' He said that gold standard is when it is measured, when there are outcomes from the treatment—or those interventions—and they are measured and you can replicate the results professionally to make sure there is continuous improvement in the youth justice system.

The Auditor-General wrote a report which said that \$1.1 million was spent on youth justice reform, with 75 per cent of the outcomes not being measured. Shame on them. They come in this place and challenge us on procrastinating with laws and not being clear, calm and considered about the changes that Queenslanders deserve.


**Mrs Poole** interjected.

**Mr McDONALD:** I will take the interjection from the member for Mundingburra.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Sorry to interrupt you, member for Lockyer. It is getting a bit noisy on all sides.

**Mr McDONALD:** I will take that interjection from the member for Mundingburra, a former police officer and colleague in this House. We do understand that early intervention is a vital part of this. I am proud to be a part of the government that has made announcement after announcement about those programs. We are not going to give 72 hours of care and assistance to those coming out of the youth justice system, like those opposite did; we will make sure that they have 12 months of meaningful support and are integrated back into the community.

I will go back to where I started my speech regarding the efforts that need to be made in the youth justice system. The family is a vital part of that system. Education is a vital part of that system. The police and the courts are a vital part of that system. In our community, we are dealing with a very small percentage of those who will reoffend. Whilst 96 per cent of those who are incarcerated might offend again, it is because they are the worst of the worst. They are the worst of the worst offenders and they should be incarcerated. They should be incarcerated for their own safety and for the safety of our community. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.39 pm), in reply: I thank all members for their contributions to the debate on the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025. The Crisafulli government is resolutely and unapologetically on the side of victims. Victims are at the heart of everything we do and we are putting victims' rights first. We are committed to undoing a decade of Labor's weak laws and we are doing it with an evidence-based approach that reflects the expectations of everyday Queenslanders.

This bill is yet another step towards making Queensland safer. We promised Queenslanders the first tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time would be law before Christmas. At the time of that promise we also said that the Expert Legal Panel would be established to advise the government on further tranches and further offences that need to be included as Adult Crime, Adult Time. We delivered on that promise: we established those five key offences as Adult Crime, Adult Time before Christmas. We established the Expert Legal Panel. The Expert Legal Panel has provided us with advice. That advice is ongoing, and they have recommended that the 20 offences that form part of this bill be made Adult Crime, Adult Time. We are introducing these reforms to strengthen our youth crime laws and we will not stop. We will not stop until Queenslanders feel safe in their homes, feel safe in their workplaces and feel safe in their communities once again.

This bill expands Adult Crime, Adult Time to include 20 additional serious high-harm offences including attempted murder, going armed as to cause fear, assaulting a pregnant person and killing or doing grievous bodily harm to their unborn child, torture and rape—just to name a few. These are not minor offences; these are crimes that devastate victims, their friends, their families and entire communities. These are the offences that have been identified—and raised by submitters, mind you, and echoed in this very chamber—to be included as Adult Crime, Adult Time.

One thing was very clear: those opposite just do not get it. Member after member stood up and questioned why these offences should be part of Adult Crime, Adult Time. They warrant inclusion. I have said it before and I will say it again: these are serious crimes with devastating impacts on victims and communities. The Crisafulli government will not wait for a pregnant woman to lose her unborn child as a result of youth crime before making it an adult crime. The Crisafulli government will not wait for a Queenslanders to be tortured before making it an adult crime. We will not wait for a police officer to be killed by a youth in a stolen car before making it an adult crime. We are acting now—because we stand on the side of victims—because one victim of crime is one too many.

To those opposite who have criticised the bill in their 20 pages of statement of reservation, being dismissive of the offences on the basis that there have been too few cases—that is the stark difference between us on this side of the House and those opposite. Labor waits until tragedy strikes before taking action. They care more about the politics.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr Bennett** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Burnett and member for Logan, stop your quarrelling.

**Mrs GERBER:** We care about the people. We care about the serious harm these offences cause. That is why they warrant inclusion in Adult Crime, Adult Time. This is about prevention, not reaction because the public expects its government to act—to act on advice and to act to strengthen our laws before lives are destroyed.

To the Labor members sitting opposite—to the member for Bulimba, the member for Gaven and all the members who stood up in this House and questioned why these serious offences are included simply on the basis of statistical frequency—shame on them. It begs the question: why would those opposite stand up and question the inclusion of these offences? Is it because, at their core, Labor do not believe in Adult Crime, Adult Time, that they do not believe in these tough laws, that they do not

believe in consequences for action? They would rather come into this House and play politics. They would rather play politics than protect Queenslanders.

The Crisafulli government stands with victims. We will deliver the changes needed to restore safety where we live. Those opposite spent significant time peddling mistruths and desperately trying to rewrite our election commitments. Let me be very clear: Queenslanders elected us to introduce these new tough laws before Christmas and to establish an expert legal panel to provide advice on what further offences should be included as Adult Crime, Adult Time—and we delivered. The Crisafulli government always said it is going to take time to fix Labor's youth crime crisis. We have had 10 years of the Labor government weakening our laws and creating a generation of repeat young offenders.

**Mr Power:** You promised that at the election.

**Mrs GERBER:** I hear the member for Logan interjection—again, peddling the same mistruths. We are delivering on our promises. We promised Queenslanders there would need to be further changes. We promised Queenslanders that there would be more changes. We know it is going to take time because you cannot unwind a decade of Labor weakening our youth crime laws and failing to invest in early intervention—gold standard early intervention—and rehabilitation. You cannot unwind that in a couple of months. It is going to time.

Do you know what the difference is between us and them? We are prepared to acknowledge it. We acknowledge the problem and we will act on it. If there was any doubt about Labor's lack of commitment to fixing the youth crime crisis, we only need to look at their stunts in this House—moving motions to delay the introduction of these laws because they would rather play political games in this House than stand up for Queenslanders and protect victims.

Throughout the committee process, we heard from victims and frontline workers and organisations alike who were calling out for these laws. Labor's instinct is to stall, delay, drag their feet. That is not leadership. That is not supporting our needed reforms and it is certainly not standing with victims of crime. Now they come in and they say they will not stand in the way of these changes. That is so they can go back to their electorates and tell them that. We know deep in their hearts that they have done everything in their power to stall these laws coming into play.

**Ms SCANLON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Minister, resume your seat for a moment. Member for Gaven, what is your point of order?

**Ms SCANLON:** The Minister for Youth Justice just said—

We established the Expert Legal Panel. The Expert Legal Panel has provided us with advice. That advice is ongoing, and they have recommended that the 20 offences that form part of this bill be made Adult Crime, Adult Time.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What is your point of order?

**Ms SCANLON:** Pursuant to standing order 30, I move—

That the document read or cited by the member be tabled.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will seek some advice and I will do that with order in the House. Under standing order 30, that motion is to be put without amendment or debate.

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

**AYES, 35:**

**ALP, 33—**Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

**Grn, 1—**Berkman.

**Ind, 1—**Bolton.

**NOES, 54:**

**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.

**KAP, 3—**Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

Resolved in the negative.

**Mrs GERBER:** The Crisafulli government makes no apologies for doing what we said we would do. We make no apologies for setting up the Expert Legal Panel when we said we would. Labor's shameful games in relation to trying to delay this bill coming into effect were on display once again just then. I want to also address the member for Bulimba, who asked why the—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is only one person who has the call. It sounded to me like there were about 90 people talking in this chamber. Minister, you have the call.

**Mrs GERBER:** I also want to address the member for Bulimba's comments when she asked why the expansion of Adult Crime, Adult Time was not referred to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council. I want to address that directly. The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council is a respected body that does some good work. This government values its work. Only yesterday the Attorney-General introduced a bill based on the recommendations of that council, but the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council does not have the monopoly on giving advice about sentencing in Queensland. We said from the beginning that we would establish an Expert Legal Panel to advise of further offending to be included in Adult Crime, Adult Time. We took that to the election, Queenslanders voted for it and we are doing exactly what we said we would do.

Then there are Labor's cries about data. Those opposite continue to grandstand about the availability of youth justice data when they were the ones who created this mess. Labor had 10 years to get this right—10 years to deliver a system that could provide up-to-date records on young people in the youth justice system. Instead of urgently and meaningfully investing in the systems needed to keep Queenslanders safe, Labor left behind an IT systems failure. One week before caretaker mode the system that holds the youth justice data was taken offline by those opposite. If it is data those opposite want, then let me give them some data.

Since the Crisafulli government introduced the first tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time the volume of court cases containing at least one of the 13 Adult Crime, Adult Time offences has decreased by 32 per cent compared to the same period last year. Mr Speaker, do you know what this demonstrates? This demonstrates that Adult Crime, Adult Time is starting to act as a deterrent. The latest police data also shows that in the first four months of this year compared to the same time last year there has been a 15 per cent decrease in robberies, an eight per cent drop in stolen cars and an 11 per cent decrease in unlawful entry. This shows that we are on the right path. If you want to know if there is more work to be done—absolutely! Is this enough? No, it is not. We know it is going to take time to unwind the damage from 10 years of Labor weakening our laws and creating a youth crime crisis.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The noise level is too high again.

**Mrs GERBER:** It will not just take strong laws; it will also take early intervention and rehabilitation. I note those opposite criticised our prevention and early intervention programs and the process we are undertaking, mind you. Those opposite criticise the process of going to tender for programs so that communities get programs that deliver for their individual communities which have individual needs. They criticise this process, they criticise us for putting Gold Standard Early Intervention out to tender and they criticise putting Staying on Track out to tender. Why did we put it out to tender, Mr Speaker? Because we know that from Cairns to Coolangatta, from out west to the Sunshine Coast, those communities need different programs. They are not the same. What works in Cairns may not work in Mount Isa and will not work in Coolangatta. We need to make sure the communities in those regions are able to tender for these programs so they can deliver early intervention and rehabilitation programs that work for their communities.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The noise level is too high.

**Mrs GERBER:** This is in stark contrast to the way those opposite did things when they were in government. I will take this opportunity to reiterate what the Queensland Audit Office had to say about those opposite and their rehabilitation and early intervention programs in their report titled *Reducing serious youth crime*. The Queensland Audit Office said that the former government did 'not undertake system-wide investment analysis to inform investment decisions', so it was not clear what was being spent across the board on youth crime or if it was being invested in proper areas. Those opposite dished out money to friends and supporters and were grossly irresponsible in the way they dished out money for early intervention and rehabilitation programs.

The Crisafulli government has almost half a billion dollars of new funding, and we are making sure that we do things properly. We have gone through the proper tender processes. We have consulted with communities on these programs. Those tender processes are now closed. The department is considering the applications in order for communities to receive programs that work in their communities, programs that are evidence based and programs that are going to deliver on KPIs for those communities. Further, we have already provided \$1.8 million to Community Gro in the electorate of Townsville and \$150,000 to Our Space in the electorate of Rockhampton. In case those opposite need a refresher course in basic addition, this is far more than the couple of hundred thousand those opposite have stood up and crowed about. We know they are fast and loose when it comes to the truth.

The member for Toohey, the member for Algester and the member for Maiwar all referred to the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youths in the system and the impact this legislation may have on Queensland's Closing the Gap targets. Labor had 10 years to implement intervention strategies to protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and help steer these vulnerable young children away from a life of crime. Did they do it? No.

**Ms Enoch** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Algester.

**Ms Enoch** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Algester, I just cautioned you.

**Mrs GERBER:** We continued to see crime rates increase in those communities. They failed both victims of crime and those children in those communities. Under Labor, Queensland's Closing the Gap targets actually went backwards. We will continue to engage and listen to communities right across the state. We will deliver on our Making Queensland Safer Laws and our plan.

We can all remember the record of those opposite. In case those opposite need reminding—because they love trying to rewrite history—their first act when they came into power was to weaken our youth justice laws. They made detention a last resort. They abolished breach of bail as an offence, creating a generation of repeat hardcore offenders who knew their rights exceeded the rights of victims. They closed the Childrens Court to victims, their families and the media. They abolished the Childrens Court trigger. They continuously put the rights of offenders before the rights of victims.

Members also referred to children in the child safety system in their contributions to this debate—children who become Queensland's serious repeat offenders. This week, we revealed that almost a third of Queensland's most serious repeat young criminals were living in care; they were living in the care of the state under Labor. In September 2024, there were 222 youth offenders on supervised youth justice orders in the care of the state. That is why the Crisafulli government has established a Commission of Inquiry into the Child Safety System. We need to understand how these failures have been happening and what needs to be done to fix that broken system to keep these vulnerable children safe. For too many years, those opposite failed to act and failed to protect these vulnerable children and they created a revolving door of crime—a spiralling door of crime where children in the child safety system spiralled into the youth justice system and continued on that path of devastation and trauma.

This bill reflects the values of Queenslanders who are sick and tired of feeling unsafe, who are fed up with seeing lives torn apart in their communities. This bill delivers what victims have been asking for—consequences that match community expectations. It ensures our courts have the tools they need to hold young offenders accountable for the most serious, harmful and devastating crimes because justice demands nothing less.

We are a government that listens and acts, and we will never apologise for putting victims first. We are strengthening the laws. We are investing in early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation programs. We are fixing the broken system. We are restoring safety where Queenslanders live. This bill is plain and clear—20 additional serious and harmful crimes to be added to Adult Crime, Adult Time so the courts have the tools necessary to hold offenders accountable and support victims of crime. While those opposite play politics and try to stall these reforms and try to rewrite their own history, we are getting on with the job of making Queensland safer. I commend the bill to the House.

Question put—That the bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

**Consideration in Detail**

Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.



**Ms SCANLON** (10.03 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Is leave granted? I think the noes have it.

**A government member:** Divide.

**Mr SPEAKER:** A division has been called. Ring the bells.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

*In division—*

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege. From where I was sitting, I thought you said that the noes had it. Did you say the noes or the ayes have it? Did you say the ayes have it?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I said the noes have it.

**Ms Pease:** No-one called a division.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton, do you have a problem with my ruling?

**AYES, 39:**

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

**Grn, 1—**Berkman.

**KAP, 3—**Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**Ind, 1—**Bolton.

**NOES, 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.

Resolved in the negative.



**Ms FARMER** (10.09 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

*In division—*

**Mr SPEAKER:** I acknowledge the former member for Blair, Shayne Neumann, is in the gallery. Welcome to the chamber.

**AYES, 39:**

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

**Grn, 1—**Berkman.

**KAP, 3—**Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**Ind, 1—**Bolton.

**NOES, 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.

Resolved in the negative.

Clauses 3 and 4, as read, agreed to.

Clause 5—



**Ms FARMER** (10.12 pm): This clause inserts 20 new prescribed Adult Crime, Adult Time offences into section 175A of the Youth Justice Act. The LNP hand-picked their five-person Expert Legal Panel and now refuses to release the advice relied on to add these offences to the clause. Queenslanders



and victims in particular deserve to know what advice the LNP relied on to select these offences, not only because the Premier promised the government would be a transparent government—‘Let the sun shine in,’ is what he said—but critically for Queenslanders and for victims in particular, the people who heard the LNP’s promise that they would reduce youth crime need to know that by naming these offences they can have confidence that the LNP actually had an idea of what they are doing.

Quite frankly, their approach to successive Youth Justice Act amendments has been completely shambolic, forgetting to include offences, creating unintended consequences and loopholes, and failing to think about technicalities. We have had to come back to debate a Youth Justice Act amendment every sitting week this term, bar in March, basically to fix up some mess or other that they have made each time. It might not matter so much if youth crime was actually going down, but, in fact, despite their cherry-picking of data, youth crime has actually gone up against most offences and in every region.

Queenslanders really need to see the evidence that they got it right this time by listing those offences because they want youth crime to go down, as the LNP promised. Stakeholder upon stakeholder has asked for transparency so they can understand the reasoning behind the offences outlined in the bill. Multiple stakeholders said they did not know why the specific offences in this clause have been included. Some of the offences have not had a single proven offence in the last five years. Others have had single-digit offences proven in the last five years. Under the existing legislation, some of the offences in clause 5 already have a maximum sentence of life imprisonment for youth offenders. Clause 5 offences constitute around one per cent of proven youth offences every year.

We had some hope that the member would release the expert panel advice when she was nodding behind the victim today in the press conference who said he would like to see it, but it appears that is not the case. My question is: can the minister advise if the Expert Legal Panel advised that all 20 of these offences should be added to Adult Crime, Adult Time and, if not, which offences were not recommended by the Expert Legal Panel?

**Mrs GERBER:** We are proud to be a government that does what we said we would do. We promised Queenslanders last year that we would make Adult Crime, Adult Time law before Christmas, and at the time we made that promise we also said we would establish an Expert Legal Panel to provide advice to the government on what further offences need to be included as Adult Crime, Adult Time. We made that promise because we know that Labor spent the last 10 years weakening our youth justice laws, and we knew it would take time to unwind that damage, but we promised Queenslanders the first tranche would be law before Christmas, and we delivered on that promise.

This delivers on our second promise—our promise that there would be further changes, our promise that the Expert Legal Panel would be set up to provide the government with advice on what further offences need be to be included as Adult Crime, Adult Time. We are delivering on that promise.

Those opposite are asking this question because they would like the advice of the expert panel to be wound up. Why? Because in their hearts, they do not believe in Adult Crime, Adult Time. They would like the work to be done. Well, I have news for those opposite. The work is ongoing. Their advice is ongoing. We on this side of the House are accountable to Queenslanders for the laws that we implement.

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** It is there in black and white for the member for Bulimba to read. You can read the 20 offences in the bill. Read the bill, member for Bulimba. Make a decision as to whether or not you are going to support the offences that are in the bill. But, no, they are using every trick in the book to try to stall Adult Crime, Adult Time coming into place. Do you know why? We do not really have to ask that question because we know that when we introduced the first tranche of the Making Queensland Safer Laws, they tore themselves apart. Eight members of their caucus voted against Adult Crime, Adult Time. The member for Cooper threatened to go to the crossbench. So, at their core, they are conflicted when it comes to this. They are raising every single thing, every tenuous grasping at straws to try to stop Adult Crime, Adult Time coming into law.

We are delivering exactly what we promised and we will not stop. There will be more changes. We will not stop until Queenslanders feel safe in their homes, until they feel safe in their businesses, and until they feel safe in their communities.

**Ms SCANLON:** What are the LNP so concerned about in this report that Queenslanders will see? What are they trying to cover up? The youth justice minister tries to insinuate that this expert panel will vanish because they will continue to provide advice. No other body functions like that. The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council can continue to do work, even though they have published a report, a

report that is public for all to see, but for some reason those opposite are trying to hide this so-called expert advice that these laws are allegedly drafted on.

My question to the Minister for Youth Justice is: if the data provided to the committee shows that clause 5 offences represent approximately one per cent of proven youth offences each year, if the Minister for Youth Justice is not going to show us the expert report, can the minister explain why the offences in clause 5 have been prioritised and not others, and why recommendations from the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council were not progressed with the same level of urgency and whether the expert panel considered and provided advice in relation to this detailed and public report?

**Mrs GERBER:** If the member for Gaven was listening to my contribution before, she would realise that the answers to those questions are already on the record. They are in *Hansard* as plain as day and I literally just explained that in my response to the member for Bulimba. This is, once again, a tactic from those opposite to delay these laws coming into play. In their hearts they do not believe in Adult Crime, Adult Time—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, you are warned.

**Mrs GERBER:**—so they doing all they can to try to ensure these laws do not come into play. I have answered these questions. The members should read the bill and they should start listening to contributions during the debate.

**Mr BUTCHER:** As we have heard during this debate over the last two days—not only over the last two days—the opposition have been asking about this expert panel and the advice that they have been giving. Stakeholders have been asking for the advice that has been given to the government and a committee even went to the point of asking for the advice to be handed over and for them to sit in front of the committee to get that information. It is quite clear that nobody really knows about what advice has been given in relation to these 20 offences that have been added to Adult Crime, Adult Time. We are still very concerned about what advice has been given, so my question to the minister is very simple. Did the Expert Legal Panel advise any additional offences to be included in this tranche of offences?

**Mrs GERBER:** I will go through it again for the benefit of those opposite. The Expert Legal Panel provided us with advice, based on the promise that would be establish Adult Crime, Adult Time before Christmas. Guess what? The Expert Legal Panel's work is ongoing. They are continuing to provide me advice, and why? Member for Gladstone, listen because you really want to hear this: I have referred to the Expert Legal Panel—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair.

**Mrs GERBER:** I have referred to the Expert Legal Panel all of the offences in schedule 1 of the Penalties and Sentences Act, every offence that carries a maximum term of imprisonment of more than 14 years. I have referred to the Expert Legal Panel every single attempted offence—of which there are hundreds. I have referred to the Expert Legal Panel sexual violence offending; it includes other domestic violence offending. The panel has come back to us and said you can consider including these 20 offences for Adult Crime, Adult Time now, and they are still considering the other offences that I have referred to them. Their advice is not done, but those opposite would like their advice to be done. That is why these questions are being asked. That is why they are trying to cling to this tenuous link.

**A government member:** They philosophically oppose it.

**Mrs GERBER:** I will take the interjection—they philosophically oppose it.

I move—

That the question be now put.

**Mr SPEAKER:** It is my view that all of the questions so far have been on the same issue which the minister has addressed on every occasion, so the question will be put.

Division: Question put—That the question be now put.

**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, 39:**

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

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Division: Question put—That clause 5, as read, stand part of the bill.

Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106(10).

Clause 5, as read, agreed to.



**Ms FARMER** (10.33 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

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

**AYES, 39:**

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

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 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.

Resolved in the negative.

Clause 6—



**Ms SCANLON** (10.35 pm): The inclusion of this clause is just another admission by the government that it is trying to fix their original botched laws. As the explanatory notes describe, the bill in this clause inserts a new subsection 282A into the eligible persons register. The explanatory notes do not detail that the powers already—

**Mrs GERBER**: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The shadow attorney-general is speaking to what is, in fact, clause 7 in the bill. She has risen on clause 6. My point of order is on relevance, but also the member should probably read the bill.

**Mr SPEAKER**: We are debating clause 6.

Clause 6, as read, agreed to.

Clause 7—

**Government members** interjected.



**Ms SCANLON** (10.36 pm): I would not be so happy if I were those opposite because we are cleaning up their mess from the first laws that they rushed through and stuffed up.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER**: I remind members that they can be warned during this session.

**Ms SCANLON**: The explanatory notes described this clause as inserting a new subsection 282A(3A), but they did not detail the fact that these powers already existed that allow victims to nominate a person to receive detainee information on their behalf. The power to nominate a person to receive information about youth offenders in detention centres has existed since the victim's eligible persons register was introduced by Labor in 2016. So it was interesting in committee—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER**: Order! I am trying to hear the member.

**Ms SCANLON**:—consideration that the member for Thuringowa came in and said—

One change we have seen that I do not think people understand enough is the eligible persons register. A victim can nominate someone to receive custody updates on their behalf so they do not have to go to court or deal with anything like that.

It seems that the member for Thuringowa may not have understood that this change was a result of the fact that the LNP got their original laws wrong. The government rewrote the eligible persons register provisions in section 54 of the Making Queensland Safer Act with this replacement section to commence on proclamation. An unintended consequence of them rushing through those laws is that this explicit power was removed for almost all victims of crime, removing the ability for victims to have control about how they receive potentially triggering information.

Those opposite should articulate why they were not up-front with Queenslanders about the fact that the laws they passed were botched and they have had to come in here and clean them up. They should detail how many other unintended consequences they envisage they are going to have to fix up down the track as we have heard from the youth justice minister that apparently there are going to be future tranches of law reform. If they know that now, why have they not introduced them? I would certainly hope that the Liberal National Party and Premier Crisafulli are not trying to deliberately politicise youth crime, and we know that the police minister had said they wanted to win seats on the back of crime. I would like him to go and tell victims of crime that they are deliberately trying to delay important reforms that would protect victims of crime.

**Ms Farmer:** Mr Speaker—

**Mrs Gerber:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the minister.

**Mrs GERBER:** Mr Speaker, the only people who are trying to delay here are those opposite. What a load of rot from the shadow attorney-general. What a load of rot. These provisions are technical in nature and they are clarifying provisions. Do honourable members know what they do? They clarify that a victim who wants to nominate a person other than themselves to receive information can still do that. They are clarifying provisions. The shadow attorney-general could not even get the clause right that she was talking to, so no-one should really believe that she has read the bill or understands what she is talking about.

The shadow attorney-general stood up and talked about delay and talked about victims and talked about trying to pretend that Labor brought in the opt-out provisions. We introduced the opt-out provisions to put the rights of victims before the rights of offenders, because under Labor victims came last. Those opposite failed to prioritise them and failed to provide them with updated information.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** I take that interjection: they shut down the youth justice inquiry. These are clarifying amendments to ensure that victims on the opt-out register can still make sure they nominate, if they want to, someone else to receive information. Sure, that is already there, but this is a clarifying amendment to ensure that that practice can continue. I move—

That the question be now put.

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** I know that another member wants to speak to this clause who might have another aspect, so I call the member for Bulimba.

**Ms FARMER:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for recognising the call I made before. This is an absolutely classic example of why those opposite should not have rushed through those laws at Christmas time, because effectively for six months they have left victims vulnerable. For all of the carrying on that they do about how much they care about victims, they removed a right that Labor gave to victims because they did sloppy work in that first bill. They did not look at unintended consequences. They did not look at the technicalities. They did not look at the loopholes, and this is yet another example. What has happened now is that under their rewritten provision, which they have had to come back to—

**Mrs GERBER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is not contributing anything new to the debate. I say that it is tedious and repetitious. I move—

That the question be now put.

**Ms FARMER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, allow me to rule. Member, I would ask you to speak to the clause. We have had the debate on the bill, so if you could speak specifically to the clause. I have it right here in front of me.

**Ms FARMER:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I am specifically speaking to the clause. The minister said in describing this clause—

The bill makes clarifying amendments to ensure that victims who are automatically registered will continue to have the option to nominate someone else to receive information on their behalf so that those victims can have control over the way they receive potentially triggering information.

My point is that what those opposite did at the end of last year actually removed that, so what they are doing in this bill is fixing up the mess that they made. In fact, it has meant that victims have had no control about how they are kept up to date on matters that many would find triggering and traumatising. My question to the minister is: when did the minister receive advice that section 54 of the Making Queensland Safer Act 2024 unintentionally removed the ability for a victim of crime to nominate a person to receive information on their behalf?

**Mrs GERBER:** What a load of rubbish from the shadow youth justice minister. If the member listened to her own words when she repeated my speech, these are clarifying amendments that ensure that victims continue to have the rights they had. Her own words contradicted exactly the question she has put to me. Those opposite are the laziest opposition and doing everything they can to try to delay this bill coming into effect. They are contributing nothing new to this debate. They are continuing their delay tactics. I move—

That the question be now put.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Clause 7, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 8 to 10, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.45 pm): I move—


That the bill be now read a third time.

Division: Question put—That the bill be now read a third time.

Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106(10).

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.51 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Due to the late sitting, the Adjournment debate will not appear in the *Record of Proceedings*. The complete *Record of Proceedings* will be available by 5.00 pm on Friday, 23 May 2025.

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Sitting-Dates/Latest-Sitting-Week>