



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Linard**


**MEMBER FOR NUDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2020

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Youth Justice**

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.56 am): As a government we are committed to ensuring our community is safe and that every child and young person in Queensland is given the opportunity to be the best they can be. Our approach is evidence based, with a record investment in youth justice. Results are encouraging but there is no silver bullet for the very small number of young people who are high-risk offenders. We make no apologies for building 33 per cent more detention centre beds to keep communities safe while at the same time investing in therapeutic approaches to stop offending.

As Minister for Children and Youth Justice, I look forward to working with communities, families, young people, frontline workers and service providers to hold young offenders to account and keep our communities safe. It is important that we do this while ensuring young people have access to early intervention programs that will reconnect them with the education, culture, their families and the health services needed to prevent them from committing crimes and help them transition into the community as productive members of society.

A couple of weeks ago I took the opportunity to visit frontline staff from youth justice and child safety to hear firsthand about the important work they do. I met members of the Townsville co-responder team who are doing fantastic work on the ground to reduce youth crime. It is great to see police and youth justice workers rostered together 24/7 to stop offending. I also met with youth detention workers at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre along with my colleague the member for Townsville, Scott Stewart, and frontline child safety and youth justice staff in Townsville and Brisbane. They work in challenging environments with young people from very traumatic backgrounds. Importantly, it was encouraging to hear examples of young people returning to training and employment.

Staff are dedicated and committed to doing all they can to keep the community safe and give these young people a chance at a better life. They are backed up by this government, which has delivered more than half a billion dollars of investment in youth justice reform. This has meant new early intervention programs and programs that connect young people to the right services. As a result, the number of young people committing offences in this state has gone down. We have seen a 30 per cent drop across the state since 2010 and a 23 per cent drop in 2019-20.

What we are left with is a hardcore group of repeat offenders—the 10 per cent who commit almost half of youth crime in Queensland. The whole of government—police, youth justice, child safety, health and education—is focused on that 10 per cent of repeat offenders. In order to keep our communities safe, we will keep working together across government and the community. Everyone has a role to play.