




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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MOTION

Youth Crime

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (5.26 pm): We have seen the failures under this do-nothing Labor government time and time again. Those failures have seen crime skyrocket in our communities. Since the Palaszczuk Labor government came into office in 2015 we have seen crime in Queensland skyrocket. As mentioned earlier, robbery is up 93 per cent, armed robbery up 86 per cent, the unlawful use of motor vehicles up 77 per cent and shop stealing up 69 per cent. On the Gold Coast, in some areas the figures are even worse. Shop stealing, for example, is up more than double at 144 per cent. Assault has increased by 127 per cent. Serious assault is up by 118 per cent. We can all remember those terrible circumstances where young people have lost their lives and many of the alleged offenders—in those cases youth offenders—have previous serious crimes to their names.

Labor's catch and release laws are an abhorrence. Labor's recent amendments do nothing to fix the broken youth justice system and skyrocketing crime caused by Labor. Labor has retained the presumption in favour of bail. Youths can be granted bail even if they pose a risk of reoffending and absconding. Unlike Labor, the LNP has committed to scrapping the presumption in favour of bail, altogether. The LNP has committed to removing the principle of detention as a last resort. Under Labor we see amendments after amendments to the Youth Justice Act, but no real solution to youth crime. Labor's priorities are all wrong.

I remember the youth bail house intended for Jacobs Well and to house 12 offenders was in an area that has no public transport. Where was it going to be put? They were going to close the Jacobs Well Environmental Education Centre that caters for almost 6,000 students a year. Imagine the impact on the education about our environment of the tens of thousands of young people that that would have caused. Imagine the impact on that community that that would have had.

Youth bail houses are a breeding ground for youth crime. As at April this year there has been a total of 1,164 critical instances. Some 59 of those youth reoffended while housed in bail houses. Some 84 per cent—that is 121 out of the 145 youths in those places—have reoffended after residing in bail houses. We are told that the level of reoffending for at least half of the young people residing in those bail houses is around nine offences per young person. These failed bail houses do not provide value for money, costing about \$2,600 per teenager—double that of regular jails.

I recall the proposal by the Attorney-General to spend \$10 million on something like 10 youth offenders in Townsville a few years ago, arguing that wrapping services around them and their families would cut crime in Townsville by 44 per cent. That was the quantum of crime that these youth were responsible for. Good luck with that. That spend was a total fail, but it pales into insignificance because this bail house thought bubble will cost taxpayers more than \$70 million.

The LNP will close down every single bail house that has caused misery to their communities and failed rehabilitation of young offenders committing crime. We will implement tougher laws. We will monitor youth offenders in bail 24/7. That is right: we will monitor them 24/7. We will introduce

mandatory detention for third convictions. We will establish a community payback farm program. We will scrap youth bail houses and we will trial justice reinvestment. We will give our police the tough laws and extra resources they need. Youth crime actually fell under the LNP, but it skyrocketed under this Labor government.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr CRANDON: We will break the cycle of youth crime and hold repeat offenders accountable. At the end of the day it is about the important issue of community safety.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister for Police and member for Ninderry, you are both warned under the standing orders for quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr CRANDON: Labor's soft stance on youth crime is failing residents in crime riddled areas such as the Gold Coast, Townsville and Cairns, and it is infiltrating suburbs around Brisbane as well. Repeat offending is a major issue, with 10 per cent, as I said before, of juvenile offenders responsible for 44 per cent of all proven offences in the 2018-19 statistics.

The only way to fix the crime crisis is to change the government and vote for the LNP—a Deb Frecklington-led LNP government. Labor are soft on crime—always have been and always will be. The people of Queensland are paying for Labor's crime crisis through increased property crime and rising insurance bills.