




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 26 May 2021

MOTION

Youth Crime

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.55 pm): I rise to support the amendment to the motion. Firstly, we have heard a number of stories about people affected by crime. No-one wants to see people affected by crime. We all are on the same page when it comes to wanting a safer community. That is why we continue to work very hard to ensure that we reduce criminal offending, to build and enhance community safety. We will never give up when it comes to acting against criminal offending.

As we heard from the Premier this morning, this government is making a significant investment in community safety. We are investing in jobs that support community safety, with a record boost in policing and in community safety. We made a commitment around delivering an extra 2,025 police personnel to boost the capacity of the Queensland Police Service to enhance community safety. We are already delivering on that commitment. We have people at the academy right now training to become police officers to serve their community.

It is important to compare that commitment to the commitment of those opposite at the last election. When we compare those two commitments, we see that if the LNP had been elected there would be 600 fewer police in Queensland. What does that mean right across the state? In places like Cairns and the Far North, there would be 90 fewer police. In places like Townsville and the north, there would be another 90 fewer police. In places like Mackay, Rockhampton and Central Queensland, there would be 125 fewer police under the LNP. On the Fraser Coast, the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay, there would be 150 fewer police if the LNP had been elected. In Brisbane there would be 130 fewer police. On the Gold Coast and in Logan, there would be 60 fewer police. Out in Toowoomba, Ipswich and the south-west, there would be 150 fewer police if the LNP had been elected. If they had been elected, the cuts would have been not just to the Police Service but extended further into other community safety agencies like the firefighters. We promised an extra 357 firefighters. What did they promise? Zero, zip, zilch. What about corrective services? It would have been a negative number, because they promised to privatise prisons. This would have delivered fewer custodial officers for Queensland.

When it comes to delivering for our emergency services, police and community safety, this government is proud to back its record. When it comes to supporting those agencies, we back them 100 per cent. We will outshine the LNP every single time.

We are hearing from police that our law changes last month are starting to have an effect. Police are saying that more young people are being remanded more often. We will continue to monitor that. We have always said that we will continue to monitor what happens.

It is interesting to note that this builds on the downward trajectory that we are seeing when it comes to the number of unique young offenders. It is the lowest on record in 10 years and down 30 per cent. Year-on-year data shows that the number of juvenile offenders by offence from 1 January to the

end of April for offences against the person is down five per cent statewide—this is juvenile offenders—and for offences against property it is down 25 per cent. I note the five per cent that the member for Clayfield referenced and see him 25 per cent. Other offences are down 16 per cent and overall offences are down 20 per cent year on year.

We are investing in early interventions, we are investing in the preventions, we are investing in police and community safety to give them the capacity to respond and apprehend offenders who are committing crimes, and we are also tightening laws to ensure that those people who seek to inflict the most harm on our community are in detention more often. That is the intention of this government.

We are also giving the courts extra powers to take stronger action. We provided the courts with the power to trial electronic monitoring devices on a cohort of youth offenders to provide the courts with an extra suite of options. We have also provided police with additional powers in safe night precincts around wandering and police are saying that that has been effective. It is only four weeks in, but it is very effective and we look forward to seeing that trial through.

(Time expired)