



Speech By  
**Mark Robinson**


**MEMBER FOR OODGEROO**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 June 2022

## MOTION

### Youth Crime

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.10 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the LNP shadow police minister and member for Burdekin. The motion notes widespread concern about youth crime, the failure of current laws in Queensland and that over 53,000 Queenslanders signed a petition to change the laws by reinstating breach of bail as an offence. The motion specifically calls on this parliament to strengthen Queensland's watered down youth justice laws, laws that are clearly failing to protect Queenslanders from the rising tide of juvenile criminal activity.

From early in this speech, I wish to again express my condolences to the families of Matthew Field and Kate Leadbetter. The tragic event that took place at Alexandra Hills on Australia Day 2021 has forever altered the course of their lives and will remain in the minds of Redlanders for a long time. Matt and Kate and their unborn baby, Miles, were killed when they were struck by a recklessly driven four-wheel drive at a busy Redlands intersection only minutes from their home. A 17-year-old repeat offender, said to be under the influence of an intoxicating substance, was at the wheel of the Toyota LandCruiser. The vehicle had been stolen earlier from a home in nearby Cleveland.

Redlanders and others were shocked and responded with floral tributes, baby items, cards and notes in an area on a footpath alongside the road and outside the former Red shop. I have stood at that site and paid my respects. It was a very emotional experience. I cannot imagine what the families have gone through—the loss of their children; the loss of an unborn grandchild. Being a father and a grandfather of two, with two more grandchildren coming, I cannot imagine a loss such as they experienced. I grieve with the family members, particularly the parents and grandparents.

Fast-forward to June 2022, and the perpetrator was successfully prosecuted for his crime but given what the family and community consider a light sentence. The community was outraged that this could be allowed to occur under the current watered down laws for a near-adult aged repeat offender. The LNP reflected the family and community outrage and demanded the government appeal the sentence—something the Attorney-General has now done, and we await the outcome. However, it begs the question: if Labor had not watered down the LNP's strong laws for 17-year-old serial offenders, would there have been scope for a stronger and more appropriate sentence to be handed down in the first place?

In the light of these events, the deaths of Matt Field, Kate Leadbetter and little baby Miles, and considering the anguish caused to the Field and Leadbetter families by the soft sentence handed down to the perpetrator, today I call on all MPs in this House to support the motion, starting with the member for Capalaba, who signed the petition. I can only assume that the member for Capalaba knows what he is doing and responsibly informs himself of things that he signs, so I would expect that he knew what he signed and is prepared to follow through with the commitment he made to the families. But if he signs things flippantly or purely emotionally then surely the Premier must consider his positions of responsibility.

Also, I call on the two other state members from Redlands coast—the members for Redlands and Springwood—to support this motion and, in so doing, show that they, too, are putting first the Redlands community that they represent. By supporting this motion today, all MPs are saying that they will support changing the law to restore breach of bail as an offence. Supporting this motion sends a clear message to bereaved and suffering families that we care about their pain, their grief and their loss. Further, it sends a clear message to the community that we will do more to protect them from young repeat offenders. It also sends a clear warning to young offenders that if they ignore our laws and commit grievous offences, particularly while already on bail, the full weight of the law will come down on them. I support the motion and call on all members to do likewise.