




Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.37 pm): The Premier has trumpeted her refreshed cabinet, but seriously, who in their right mind thought that reshuffling the deck was going to result in any meaningful shift to address the successive failures of this tired third-term Palaszczuk Labor government? Rather than bring in fresh faces, the Premier took the path of least resistance, tasking failed ministers like the member for Redcliffe and the member for Bulimba with tackling critical problems like the youth crime crisis—two ministers who in their previous ministerial roles presided over the systemic weakening of youth justice laws in Queensland.

Both the member for Redcliffe and the member for Bulimba did not just preside over the weakening of the laws; they boasted about how much of a positive difference removing breach of bail and detention as a last resort would have. How did that work out? The facts show there was a reduction in youth offending every single year of the former LNP government. What happened when the Palaszczuk Labor government came to power? In 2015-16 offending was up 400; the next year, 600; the next year, 1,600; and in 2018-19 it was up by 3½ thousand offences. That is the member for Bulimba's record: skyrocketing youth crime because of weak youth justice laws that she presided over.

The only solution those opposite have that is working is the LNP's policy of breach of bail. Labor copied the LNP's breach of bail legislation word for word and now, after proudly saying for eight years that it would not work, after opposing the very same legislation they now champion as their own, the member for Bulimba comes in here today and says that 299 young people have been charged in two months. That just highlights the magnitude of the problem.

Imagine how many young offenders would have been off the streets if the member for Bulimba had supported that policy in 2019. Back in 2019 she proudly championed that she was 'removing legislative barriers that may contribute to kids being held on remand or being refused bail'. Now, just like then, the member for Bulimba is ignoring the calls of Queensland communities for stronger action on youth criminals. Queenslanders want to see youth criminals held to account when they break the law; they want to see young offenders held in custody to protect the community. Queenslanders want detention as a last resort removed from the Youth Justice Act. The only argument that the member for Bulimba can mount is that it is against a UN convention. Never mind that the breach-of-bail provisions that they support contravene the same convention; never mind that it is what Queensland communities want and need. Queenslanders deserve better than the same chaos and crisis from failed ministers like the member for Bulimba and the member for Redcliffe. Queenslanders deserve a government that is strong on crime and will keep our community safe.