




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure) (3.51 pm): Every Queenslander deserves to feel safe in their home and in their community. Our priority is to put community safety first. It drives everything we do. While this bill is tough on the perpetrators of crime, it also builds on the work we have already started to prevent crime in the first place. We are a government that is committed to giving our young people the very best chances in life through a good education, jobs, health care and the right support. Where serious repeat offenders are breaking the law, we need to give the police and the courts the right tools to stop them. But for many young people, we can help them before things go that far. The factors that drive young people to commit crime have always been complex. There is always more to do and, no matter what any politician tells you, there is no magic wand. We know there is no magic wand or silver bullet.

That is why the government is also tackling the complex causes of youth crime. This includes an additional \$100 million to expand programs proven to make a difference at breaking the cycle. By investing in prevention and early intervention, we can stop vulnerable young people falling into a cycle of crime. Intensive case management has already delivered great results in diverting young offenders in Townsville and Cairns, turning around vulnerable people's lives and setting them up for the future. We will expand this program to Brisbane, Logan, Toowoomba, Moreton, the Gold Coast, Rockhampton and Ipswich. A dedicated team of police and youth justice workers currently provide a rapid response program in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Moreton, North Brisbane, Logan and Gold Coast. They have completed 40,000 engagements to ensure that these young people are getting the help they need and staying out of trouble. We will expand that service into Toowoomba, Hervey Bay, Mount Isa, Ipswich and South Brisbane. The early action group has seen great successes in bringing together police, youth justice and other agencies to manage high-risk individuals. We will expand that program into Mount Isa and Cairns.

First Nations people are overrepresented in youth detention. Their circumstances are often even more complex and they require a more tailored approach. We will invest \$4 million in On Country program which will provide a tailored approach in a manner which is culturally appropriate and evidence based. To bring young people together and get them to engage positively with the community, we are investing in localised programs. We will provide a safe space for them with investments like \$4.2 million into the Townsville Street University and \$1.5 million for midnight basketball in Cairns.

Being a victim of crime can have a long-lasting impact on a person's life. That is why we are also increasing support for victims of crime. We will provide an additional \$9 million of funding to Victim Assist Queensland that will ensure the victims of violent crimes receive assistance and support to help them recover from the physical and psychological impacts of crime, and I acknowledge the contribution that you have made, Madam Deputy Speaker Bush, into our thinking on supporting victims of crime.

They are just some of the many evidence-based responses supported by the Palaszczuk government. We know there is more to do, and with this bill we are acting. Those opposite would have Queenslanders believe that there is a simple solution, but Queenslanders are smarter than that. They know the causes of crime are much more complex and the solutions need to be evidence based and put community safety first. That is why we have developed this bill that gives police and the courts the tools that they need to stop serious repeat offenders from committing crimes while also investing in programs to help vulnerable children to turn their lives around before they commit crimes.

Finally, I take a moment to thank our police and all of the people working on the programs I have mentioned and all of the youth justice staff, including those in the youth detention centres and in programs. They have difficult jobs. They do the people of Queensland a huge service. I especially want to thank those who have spoken with me so honestly and openly over the last few months. I commend the bill to the House.